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Is Santa Claus Canadian or Russian?

Vladimir Putin is pawing the snow over Canada's claim to the North Pole after Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird confirmed Canada is extending its Arctic territorial demand

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Nenshi says the city should look at bolstering its fleet in the future to handle large snowfalls like what's been experienced in the past week

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Turning Lululemons (see: 2013) into Lululemonade

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CELEBRATING NELSON MANDELA

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NEARLY 100 VISITING HEADS OF STATE REMEMBER THE LATE LEADER

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Top school official to net nearly \$300K in severance pay

'Highly unusual.'
CBE superintendent's contract terms surprise watchdog



JEREMY NOLA
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Calgary's top public school official will earn a "retiring allowance" equal to a full year's pay — nearly \$300,000 — despite resigning in April, more than three months before her current contract expires.

The terms for chief superintendent Naomi Johnson's departure from the Calgary Board of Education are set out in a 2012 contract approved by then-serving trustees and obtained by Metro. It states that even "upon resignation" Johnson would still receive a full year's pay, the maximum allowed by the Alberta School

Act for a departing employee.

At the time of the employment agreement, dated Jan. 1, 2012, Johnson's annual base pay was \$287,834.

It was unclear, however, if she's received a raise since then, and CBE administration and trustee board chair Sheila Taylor declined to discuss Johnson's severance because it involved a personnel matter.

But Dale Hudjik, an Edmonton-based governance watchdog who's been tracking school board operations closely for a decade, deemed Johnson's departure terms "highly unusual."

"In general principles, I would expect that people get paid for the value they add to the organization," he said. "For someone to get paid for leaving doesn't seem appropriate, particularly for a public organization."

In her contract, Johnson was also provided \$15,000 annually for a car allowance, up

to \$10,000 to enrol in seminars, courses and programs related to CBE business and \$2,000 in a health spending account. This comes on top of insurance and benefit plans provided to all senior administrators but excludes expenses accrued by the chief to attend domestic and international conferences.

But contrary to Hudjik's assessment of the contract, Alberta governance consultant George Cuff said it's "fairly common" for such agreements to include some form of severance payout, even in the event of an early resignation.

"A lot of these contracts were entered into before this era of increased media and public attention to details," he said. "In the public sector, it always sounds like a lot of money, which it is in terms of sheer dollars, but in terms of what you require to get the person to sign up in the first place, the contract is probably not all that unusual."



WE'VE MISSED YOU IGGY!

Jarome Iginla takes part in the pre-game skate before battling it out with the Flames in Calgary on Tuesday. Iginla received an extended standing ovation before the opening faceoff of his first game back in Calgary since his trade. For Iginla coverage, see pages 10-11. For last night's game coverage, see page 44. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Police chief. Social media useful but ...

Calgary's police chief said he backs expanding the social-media presence of his officers but is urging residents to continue reporting crimes through more traditional means.

A quick look at the Calgary Police Service's Facebook page and Twitter accounts Tuesday reveals people claiming they are being harassed or attempting to file a complaint about a neighbour or attending officers themselves.

But while police Chief Rick Hanson said the service is expanding its online presence "incrementally" — Metro reported Monday that four city constables now post to Twitter and Facebook routinely from the field — he said victims or witnesses of serious crimes should be phoning 911.

"People think they can tweet somebody with a gun walking down the street," he said. "You know what? We might get it, we might be able to respond to it, but we might miss it if it's on Twitter. But if you call 911 we're going to be all over that and be able to do effective co-ordinating of resources."

In less-urgent matters, victims can also attend a police district office or fill out a report online through the service's website, Hanson noted.

Still, Hanson said the benefits of his officers sharing information through social media "have been tremendous" and were most apparent during the June flood. As water spilled over Calgary's banks, the official CPS Twitter account provided so many updates to worried residents it was temporarily locked in "Twitter jail." The service later received an international award in recognition of its online efforts.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



Calgary spends tens of millions of dollars a year to control snow and ice on city streets, but the latest storm has created problems across the city, particularly on Deerfoot Trail. METRO FILE

Storm 'exposed a few weaknesses': Nenshi

On budget so far.
Total snow-clearing
tab for 2013 expected
by mid-January



**ROBSON
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Calgary appears to be within its snow-removal budget for the year, but Mayor Naheed Nenshi says the city should look at bolstering its fleet in the future to handle large snowfalls like what's been experienced in the past week.

"This storm has exposed a few weaknesses but I don't think it has exposed a major

problem with the entire system," Nenshi said Tuesday.

The mayor added that the city needs to strike "the right balance" when it comes to buying its own plows, sanders and other equipment, versus contracting out additional service when needed.

"We could spend millions of dollars on equipment that's only used once a year or once every two years," the mayor added. "We could reach out to the private sector more to utilize their equipment."

Coun. Ray Jones, whose northeast ward has been hit particularly hard by snowdrifts, questioned why it took the city several days to deploy tow trucks to help people extricate stranded cars.

"I remember three years ago, when we added \$10 million to the budget, I'm positive — or I'm almost positive — that we decided at that time that we would dedicate a plow and a truck to those kinds of areas that were

blocked in, right off the bat, so they wouldn't have to wait four or five days," he said. "I want to know what happened to that service."

Jones plans to raise the issue at Monday's council meeting.

Weather ready

Calgary's snow and ice control budget for 2013 is \$34 million, according to transportation spokesperson Carissa Vescio.

- As of the end of November, she said \$21.5 million had been spent, and it appears the city will come in under budget for the year, as a

whole.

- If there is an extraordinary amount of snow in the rest of the December and the budget is exhausted, Vescio said another \$3.5 million is available in a reserve fund council created in 2012.

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Faculty members call for bigger voice in U of C president's review

Evaluation. Faculty association head wants to know why they're not represented on 10-member committee:



JEREMY NOLAÏS
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University of Calgary members are putting the job performance of its top executive under the microscope, but both faculty and student representatives say they would like to have a bigger voice in the process.

Chatter around the institution is that school president Elizabeth Cannon will pass her mandatory evaluation with flying colours, but fac-

ulty association head Paul Rogers is quick to question why his organization does not have a representative on the 10-member committee.

"We would have thought they would want the most representative committee possible," Rogers said, noting the president review committee still relies on a member composition first drafted in 1992.

Rogers refrained from offering any input on Cannon's actual job performance but did note the committee that would be formed in the event the university needed to find a new leader would feature a faculty association representative. That group's member composition was reviewed in 2009.

The committee does feature two members of the institution's general faculties council, but Rogers claims the nomination process was skewed in the name of speeding along Cannon's review.

Bonnie Dupont, chair of the U of C's board of governors, said the organization is



The performance of University of Calgary president Elizabeth Cannon, seen here earlier this semester, is currently under review. METRO FILE

still working through revising terms of reference for some committees that were written in the 1980s. Despite

that, she deflected any claims that Cannon's review committee is not representative of the U of C community as

a whole.

"The opportunities for faculty involvement are very diverse," Dupont said, not-

ing she also personally interviewed Rogers and his organization has a voting member on the board of governors.

Presidents

8

Elizabeth Cannon is the eighth U of C president and was appointed July 1, 2010.

Authorities discuss confiscating distracted drivers' cellphones

Should distracted drivers have their cellphones seized?

That's a question being batted around by Calgary's top cop, his Ontario counterpart and Alberta's head of transportation as they eye more extreme ways of curbing distracted driving.

On Tuesday, Police Chief Rick Hanson said he was casually pitched the idea in an email

from the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police.

While Hanson didn't back seizing mobile phones, noting it could jeopardize livelihoods, he suggested it speaks to an enforcement issue that's become the scourge of police forces across North America.

"That's the level of conversation that's occurring," Han-

son said in a year-end interview with Metro. "It's frightening the collisions that are occurring because of distracted driving."

Earlier this month, Calgary police reported 665 crashes have involved some element of distracted driving this year. However, the authorities suggested that's only the tip of the iceberg.

Hanson also called distracted driving an "addiction" opposed to a habit, and renewed his call to add demerits to the existing fine for the traffic offence. But he wasn't overtly confident that the province would make that move.

"Heck, we were the last province in the country to get distracted-driving legislation

with a \$172 fine," he said. "So do I think we're going to be successful in getting demerit points any time soon? ... I'm not going to hold my breath."

Outgoing Transportation Minister Ric McIver acknowledged changes are needed because "the vast majority of the public is ignoring" the provincial law. The ministry is

exploring stiffer penalties, he continued, with cellphone seizures being far down the list of possible responses.

"I would say the number one thing we're looking at is increased fines and the potential for demerit points," said McIver, who is set to take over the Infrastructure portfolio.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO



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City seeking to spread use of solar signals

Crosswalks. City says improved technology and hybrid solar/hardwired power can make devices work more consistently

Calgary plans to install more solar-powered crosswalk signals at the sides of streets that city staff say are cheaper and at least as effective as traditional overhead lights — provided they have reliable electricity.

Eight “rectangular rapid flashing beacons” or RRFBs were already installed in locations across Calgary as part of a \$200,000 pilot project, and on Tuesday the city’s priorities and finance committee gave the nod to extend the project with an additional \$400,000.

“It’s a very cost-effective method of dealing with pedestrian crosswalking,” said

Safety boost

97.5%

The average rate at which drivers properly yielded to pedestrians at eight locations with RRFBs, according to a city study. That’s up from an average of 83.4 per cent when the crosswalks had only unlit signage.



The flashing beacons at this crosswalk on Radcliffe Drive S.E. were part of a pilot project the city undertook in 2011 that is set to be expanded. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Coun. Peter Demong, who put forward a motion in 2011 that led to the initial project.

City studies found drivers properly yielded to pedestrians more often at all eight locations equipped with RRFBs, with seven of the locations seeing yielding rates of 96 to 100 per cent, compared to rates of 74 to 94 per cent when the crosswalks were marked with unilluminated signs.

The devices are also significantly less expensive, costing the city between \$15,000 and \$40,000, depending on the

type, compared to \$70,000 to \$95,000 for overhead flashing lights at crosswalks.

Reliability of the solar panels was an issue, however.

“The biggest concern from an engineering perspective is a traffic-control device that is activated but doesn’t work,” said traffic engineering manager Gord Elenko. “It provides a false sense of security.”

Still, the city figures it can retrofit the existing eight RRFBs with auxiliary AC power at a total cost still lower than traditional overhead lights.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Memories of Mandela flooded back: Redford



Premier Alison Redford, who attended Mandela's funeral Tuesday, said the service was sadness mixed with joy. METRO FILE

Premier Alison Redford says memories came flooding back to her when she walked into the stadium in South Africa to attend the memorial service for Nelson Mandela.

Redford says the stadium was where Mandela often held rallies and gave speeches as he took the nation out of its apartheid years.

She says it is sad to know he will never take that stage again.

Redford, who was part of a Canadian delegation that attended the funeral, worked with the leader in the early

1990s as he developed a new political system when South Africa was in transition out of apartheid and developing a new constitution.

“He was a very tough taskmaster,” Redford said as she reflected on her time with Mandela. “He always had a sense of humour and I think that’s what kept him on track.”

The premier says the crowd was particularly excited to hear U.S. President Barack Obama call Mandela one of the leaders that put him on the path to politics and eventually to the White House. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Second-degree murder

White supremacist gets life for savage beating

A self-proclaimed white supremacist convicted in the beating death of a Calgary man has been sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 13 years.

Robert Reitmeier, 26, was found guilty last month of second-degree murder in the

October 2010 death of Mark Mariani.

Mariani was walking down an alley to his parked car when he was savagely kicked and stomped.

The 47-year-old was frail with Crohn's disease and unable to defend himself.

Tyler Sturup pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in March to the same crime and is to spend at least 10 years in jail before he is eligible for parole.

Reitmeier also faces a

10-year weapons prohibition should he be released from prison.

He showed no emotion Tuesday when he heard the sentence — which was essentially middle ground between the Crown's argument that his parole eligibility be at least 15 years and a defence suggestion that it be no more than 10.

Prosecutor Adam May explained outside court why the Crown was seeking a harsh sentence.

"Aggravating factors like

the savage nature of the beating, the vulnerable aspect of the victim, the fact that the accused was on probation at the time of this offence were all factored into our reason for asking for 15 years," May said.

He added that it appears that Mariani was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"Unfortunately we don't have an ascertainable motive as to why this happened and we may never know."

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Hayna Gutierrez and Tara Williamson perform as part of an Alberta Ballet production. PAUL MCGRATH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Plans to develop city's arts scene include suburbs

Culture in Cowtown.

Forming 'creative communities' the key to transformation: CADA



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Calgary's plan for artistic and cultural development will focus on continuing to develop a downtown "arts district" but not to the exclusion of arts activities in the suburbs, city council heard Tuesday.

Speaking before a special meeting of council, new Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA) president Patti Pon said a centralized and concentrated hub of arts activity is important for tourists visiting the city and looking to take in local culture, as well as for the local arts community itself.

"It gives us a place to build from," Pon said. "So that ripple effect begins."

Her answer came in response to a question from Coun. Ward Sutherland, who wanted to know how the strategy would impact arts activities in places like Rocky

Ridge, at the periphery of northwest ward.

Pon said fostering "creative communities" is an essential part of the plan, including the promotion of arts activities in recreation centres, community halls and private venues where artists choose to locate outside of the city's core.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said the city's investment of about \$5 million a year into CADA, which in turn funds everything from small theatre productions to major companies like the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and Alberta Ballet, is well worth it.

"Everyone wants to live in a city that has a great ballet, even if you never in your life will go to the ballet — there's something about the brand value of that," he said.

"One of our major strategies in economic development is to attract the top talent in the world to want to live here, invest here and raise a family here," the mayor added.

Calgary's poet laureate Kris Demeanor said the city remains a "strange enigma" to artists elsewhere in the country, but the reputation of its arts scene is starting to change.

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Priddis area

Child sent to hospital in bus rollover

Four children and a bus driver were rescued from a rolled bus near Priddis on Tuesday, with one of the children sent to hospital with minor injuries.

Turner Valley RCMP received a call around 8 a.m. Tuesday after reports of a school bus rollover on Coalmine Road.

According to police, the bus was pulling over to the side to allow a vehicle to pass when it slid down into a steep ditch and rolled.

No charges are expected. **METRO**

Downtown

Fuel spill nets \$30K fine

An unreported 300-litre diesel spill on the roof of a downtown Calgary building has netted the building owner, managers and operators a stiff fine.

According to the Calgary

Fire Department, 1023808 Alberta Ltd, Brookfield Properties Management Corp and Brookfield Properties Ltd were fined \$30,000 for the offence. "Failing to ensure that the Fire Department is notified immediately once a flammable or combustible liquid has spilled is a serious offence," said Fire Marshal Ed Kujat. "There is risk to both people and the environment." **METRO**

Hunting ramification

Alberta rams smaller, older

A study on decades' worth of bighorn sheep hunting suggests that the quest to bag trophy animals is resulting in rams that are both smaller and slower-growing.

Marco Festa-Bianchet from the University of Sherbrooke examined records from 7,000 Alberta bighorn rams taken since 1974.

In Alberta, any resident hunter can shoot a ram as long as its curled horns have reached a certain size. Festa-Bianchet says that practice weeds out rams that grow fast and big. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Faithful Flames fans welcome Iginla back

'Iggy' popular. After 16 years with Calgary, former team captain left last summer, heading south and eventually joining Bruins



BRYAN WEISMILLER

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On a night that was as much about memories as it was about hockey, Calgary Flames fans lined up to pay tribute to Jarome Iginla on Tuesday.

Chants of "Iggy, Iggy, Iggy" punctuated thunderous applause as Calgary's prodigal son of professional hockey returned to the Saddledome.

Iginla got a standing ovation amid a video montage prior to puck drop. He further frenzied the home crowd

with a stick-raising salute.

Throughout the concourse and in the stands, everyone was talking about the former Flames captain.

"What a great guy he's been for the city, the fans and other young kids who idolize him," said Rich Boorman.

His young son, Tommy, remembered watching Iginla score his 500th career goal on Hockey Night in Canada.

"It was really cool to see it," he said.

Arguably the most popular player to wear the Flaming C, Iginla left last season as Calgary's all-time leader in points, goals and games played.

His immense popularity seemed to transcend team loyalties — at least for one night.

Jesse Higdon and Robyn Rafuse were spotted eyeing Iginla's new black-and-gold Boston Bruins jersey at a si-

Just paying it back ...

"You've got to pay tribute to him because he was so loyal for all those years."

Flames fan Jesse Higdon

lent auction.

While both were wearing red silks, Higdon shook off any suggestions of being a turncoat.

"Just 'cause it's Iggy though — he's forever a Flame," he said. "Other than that, I'd never buy a Boston jersey."

Rafuse, meanwhile, suggested the team retire his jersey.

No. 12 sweaters of all stripes and colours could be seen at the 'Dome, highlighting Iginla's time playing for the Flames, Pittsburgh Penguins, Bruins and Team Canada.

But of all those team

jerseys, Bruins fan Dwight Kawalik was delighted to see the veteran winger skating with a big B emblazoned on his chest.

Still, Kawalik expressed some uneasiness in seeing Iginla dressed in the visitor's uniform.

"It's a little weird, a little surreal," he said.

A highly touted first-round pick, Iginla joined the Flames organization in December 1995 and spent 16 seasons with the team. He was traded to Pittsburgh in March and signed with the Bruins last summer.

More coverage, page 44

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Jesse Higdon and Robyn Rafuse were two of many Jarome Iginla loyalists who were pulling for No. 12 to score against his former team. But, like most of the Flames faithful, the couple still wanted the home team to win. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

PC caucus. Cleared of conflict of interest, Sandhu back in government fold

A member of the Alberta legislature who was cleared of conflict of interest after he tried to get rule changes to help his home-building company is back in the government caucus.

Backbencher Peter Sandhu, who represents Edmonton-Manning, tweeted that he is honoured to be back with the Progressive Conservatives.

Sandhu stepped out of the caucus in May when ethics issues surfaced in a CBC report that said he had tried to get changes that would help him with what he called "vexatious" liens against his company, NewView Homes.

Ethics commissioner Neil Wilkinson acknowledged several senior civil servants felt Sandhu was inappropriately using his office to further the interest of his business. But Wilkinson ruled the actions were acceptable given Sandhu believed the changes would benefit other home-builders, too.

Tory Caucus whip Steve Young welcomed Sandhu back in a statement. "Upon receiving a request from Peter Sandhu, the PC caucus is pleased to welcome Peter back into the fold so we can continue working together to strengthen this province."

Wilkinson found that Sandhu had raised the issue of vexatious liens in committee and had fellow members of the legislature ask questions of the Service Alberta minister in question period about the Builders Lien Act. The commissioner noted that the legislature is made up of people from diverse backgrounds and interests and that their work to make things better in their areas of expertise is to be encouraged. "It's their job," he wrote.

Opposition parties have widely panned the ruling, saying it flies in the face of common sense and opens the door to politicians who want to lobby for their own pet interests. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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From prisoner to peacemaker

Nelson Mandela. In eulogy to late leader, Obama implores people to embrace universal message of peace and justice

Amid cheers and song for the prisoner who became peacemaker, President Barack Obama energized tens of thousands of spectators and nearly 100 visiting heads of state Tuesday with a plea for the world to emulate Nelson Mandela, "the last great liberator of the 20th century."

Obama's eulogy was the rhetorical highlight of a memorial service in which South Africans celebrated Mandela's life with singing and dancing, often during dignitaries' speeches.

Lashing rain lent a free-wheeling aspect to the memorial, with people taking shelter in the stadium's wide hallways, where they sang anti-apartheid anthems from the 1970s and 1980s. Foul weather kept many away, and the 95,000-capacity stadium was only two-thirds full.

Obama implored people to embrace Mandela's universal message of peace and justice, comparing the South African leader to Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Lincoln. Mandela spent 27 years in prison under a racist regime, and promoted forgiveness and reconciliation when he was finally freed.

Obama, who like Mandela became the first black president of his country, said he was inspired by Mandela as a student. The speech was greeted with thunderous applause, and many gave a standing ovation. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Two girls dance in the rain outside of the memorial service for former South African president Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium in Soweto, near Johannesburg, South Africa, on Tuesday. TSANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebration of a life

"We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again. But let me say to the young people of Africa, and young people around the world — you can make his life's work your own."

U.S. President Barack Obama



Nelson Mandela's widow Graca Machel
MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks to crowds attending the memorial service for Nelson Mandela. EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In attendance

In contrast to the wild applause given to Obama, South African President Jacob Zuma was booed. Many South Africans are unhappy with Zuma because of state corruption scandals, though his ruling African National Congress, once led by Mandela, remains the front-runner ahead of elections next year. Thabo Mbeki, who succeeded Mandela as president, got a rousing cheer as he entered the stands.

- A dazzling mix of royalty, statesmen and celebrities was in attendance.
- Among the heads of state and government were some from countries like Cuba that don't hold fully democratic elections.
- Other attending leaders criticized for their human rights records were Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema and Gambia's Yahya Jammeh.
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon waved and bowed to spectators as he called Mandela "one of our greatest teachers."
- Actress Charlize Theron, model Naomi Campbell and singer Bono were among the celebrities paying final tribute.
- Mandela's widow, Graca Machel, and his former wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, gave each other a long hug before the ceremonies began.


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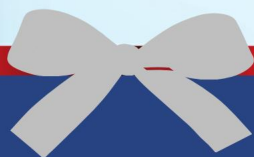
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Canadians pay tribute to a 'giant of history'

South Africa.

Memorial was more a celebration than a funeral, says Harper

A teeming, colourful sea of mourners danced and sang under a cold, exhilarating South African downpour Tuesday as tens of thousands of people — including political leaders from around the world — gathered to celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela.

A powerful coalition of politically diverse emissaries from across Canada was on hand for the four-hour ceremony, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper and four of his predecessors: Jean Chretien, Kim Campbell, Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark.

"Today was more a celebration than a funeral," Harper said as the ceremony came to a close. "A celebration of a very long life, but a very important life."

He called Mandela "one of the giants of history."

A steady, cold rain appeared to keep many away from the Soweto soccer stadium, where those who did brave the elements heard stirring calls to action from the likes of U.S. President Barack Obama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, stand next to Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto Tuesday in Johannesburg, South Africa, during the memorial for Nelson Mandela. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chretien said the exuberance made it unlike any memorial he has seen.

"It is a great occasion of respect because he's admired by everybody," he said.

Campbell said on Twitter: "We are cold, wet but still exhilarated!"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let it rain

"In our culture the rain is a blessing. Only great, great people are memorialized with it."

Harry Tshabalala, a driver for the justice ministry in South Africa

Sign of a thaw? Obama shakes hands with Cuban leader during memorial

President Barack Obama shook hands with Cuban President Raúl Castro Tuesday at a memorial service for Nelson Mandela, a simple gesture that signalled possible thawing between the leaders of two Cold War foes.

The brief encounter between the U.S. and Cuban presidents came during a ceremony that celebrated the former South African president's legacy of reconciliation. Obama was greeting a line of world leaders attending the memorial in Johannesburg before delivering his own eulogy in which he urged a new generation to embrace Mandela's life work as their own.

Obama adviser Ben Rhodes said the handshakes with Castro and other world leaders weren't planned in advance and didn't involve any substantive discussion, but were simply an exchange of greetings as the U.S. leader made his way to the podium to speak.

Still, more than half a century after the U.S. cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba, such exchanges between American and Cuban leaders are exceedingly rare. U.S. officials often have gone to great lengths to avoid having presidents meet Cuban leaders, even in passing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama shakes hands with Cuban President Raúl Castro in Soweto, South Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ford stands by word he didn't want to say

'Beyond the pale.'
 Toronto mayor doubles down on insinuation about Star reporter

A defiant Toronto Mayor Rob Ford refused Tuesday to apologize or explain televised comments in which he sparked a threat of legal action by appearing to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile.

Asked if he would say sorry to Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale or clarify the comments he made during a Vision TV interview with former media baron and convicted felon Conrad Black, Ford was emphatic.

"I stand by my words, what I said with Conrad Black," Ford told a news conference. "I stand by every word I said."

Black had asked Ford in the interview broadcast Monday about media intrusion on his family's privacy, and Ford singled out Dale for an incident that happened in May 2012.

"Daniel Dale is in my backyard taking pictures. I have little kids. He's taking pictures of little kids," Ford told Black in the interview, taped Friday.

"I don't want to say that



Conrad Black, left, interviews Rob Ford on his show on Vision TV. CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

"It is unpleasant when the mayor of the biggest city in Canada essentially accuses you ... (of being a) pedophile."

Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale

word but you start thinking what this guy is all about."

Dale said at no time did he ever take any photographs of the mayor's family, house or property — and a police investigation bore that out.

The matter was in the hands of Star lawyers, Dale said.

Editor in chief Michael Cooke said Tuesday that it would be Dale's decision on whether to sue but said the Star would back him financially.

"I can't think of a worse thing to say about a man — a man who has sex with children," Cooke said. "I can't think of a worse insult, a worse libel, a worse accusation."

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, who has assumed most of the mayor's powers, denounced the mayor's view.

"It's almost beyond comment. It goes beyond the pale and I think there should be an apology for that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fredericton

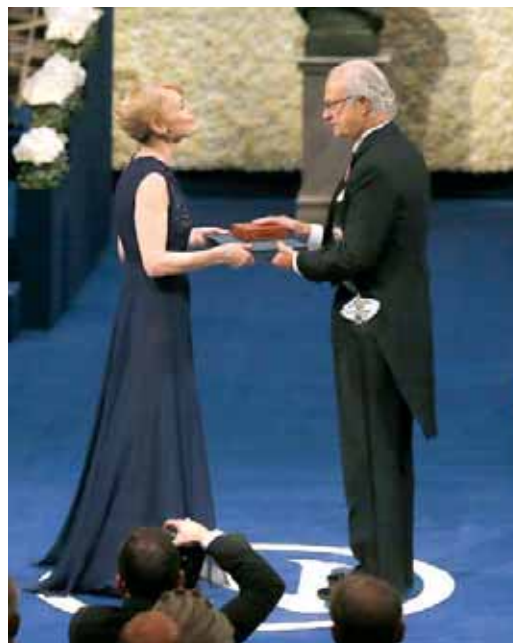
Pot-smoking Mountie charged with assaulting fellow officer

The Public Safety Department for Fredericton, N.B., says a Mountie who complained about not being able to smoke medicinal marijuana on the job was subdued with a stun gun and charged with assaulting another RCMP officer.

Alycia Morehouse, a spokeswoman for the department, says Cpl. Ron Francis is undergoing a psychiatric assessment after he was arrested last week. He is due back in provincial court on Jan. 6.

An RCMP spokeswoman says the Mounties were concerned about Francis's well-being when they found him Friday on a street in downtown Fredericton.

She says Francis was hit with a stun gun at one point, but she couldn't offer further details, saying the matter is before the courts. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alice Munro's Nobel Prize accepted by daughter Jenny

Jenny Munro, daughter of the 2013 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature Alice Munro, receives the Nobel in her place from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm Tuesday. Alice Munro, a Canadian short-story legend, is only the 13th woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in literature, and the first Canadian-based author to receive it. FRANK AUGSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ranger Joe Amarualik drives his snowmobile on the ice during a Canadian Ranger sovereignty patrol near Eureka, on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, in 2007. Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway have all been trying to assert jurisdiction over parts of the Arctic, which is believed to hold up to a quarter of the planet's undiscovered oil and gas. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Can we claim Santa's home? Putin says no

Sabre rattling. Russia counters Canada's bid to expand Arctic turf with military directive

Russian President Vladimir Putin is pawing the snow over Canada's claim to the North Pole.

A day after Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird confirmed Canada is extending its Arctic territorial claim beyond the area mapped by federal scientists, Putin responded Tuesday with a highly visible message to the Russian military.

"I would like you to devote special attention to deploying

infrastructure and military units in the Arctic," Putin was quoted saying in televised comments at a meeting of the Defence Ministry Board in Moscow.

The country requires "every lever for the protection of its security and national interests there," Putin said for the cameras.

Baird held a news conference Monday on Parliament Hill where he asserted the Arctic claim will include the North Pole, although Canada has yet to do the mapping work to support its bid.

Russia is already drilling for oil in the high Arctic, and in 2007 a Russian team planted the country's flag on the

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Last week, Canada made a formal scientific submission to the United Nations claiming 1.2 million square kilometres of seabed under the Atlantic, as well as a preliminary claim in the Arctic Ocean.

sea floor at the magnetic pole.

Baird's spokesman Rick Roth responded to Putin's latest Arctic chest-thumping by stating Canada will defend its sovereignty in the region "in adherence to international law, and through science-based measures."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

San Francisco

13 plead guilty in PayPal attack

Thirteen people have pleaded guilty to helping briefly disable PayPal as part of a protest that authorities say was organized by the hacking group Anonymous.

Ten of the defendants pleaded guilty to felony and misdemeanour charges of intentionally damaging a protected computer. If they stay out of legal trouble, the U.S. Department of Justice plans to drop the felony charges. Three other defendants pleaded guilty to misdemeanour charges in San Jose federal court and face similar sentences.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uruguay. Senate expected to approve weed market

Uruguay's Senate was finishing its final debate Tuesday before voting on an audacious and risky plan to create the world's first national marijuana market, with the state regulating the entire process of growing, selling and using a drug that is illegal almost everywhere else.

Approval late Tuesday was all but assured, given the ruling coalition's majority and support from President Jose Mujica, who says he's convinced the global drug war is a failure and that state regulations can do a better job than weapons to contain addictions and defeat a thriving illegal market.

Former Health Minister Alfredo Solari, a Colorado Party senator, warned that children and adolescents will more easily get their hands on pot, and that "the effects of this policy on public health will be terrible."

But Sen. Roberto Conde, a former deputy foreign minister with the ruling Broad Front, said marijuana "is already established in Uruguay. It's a drug that is already seen as very low risk and enormously easy to get." Constanza Moreira, a fellow Broad Front senator, said, "This law will return us to the vanguard of Latin America."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malian website claims government threats

Censorship. Editor says government threatened to shut down website over story about civilians murdered by military

The editor-in-chief of a popular news portal in Mali said Tuesday he took down an account of an Associated Press article

detailing crimes allegedly committed by the Malian military after receiving two threatening phone calls and an email from Mali's government.

The Paris-based editor said the Malian ministries of defence and communication warned in separate calls they would block his website in Mali, effectively shutting down his business, if he did not immediately pull an article about the investigation

of the alleged crimes.

The director of the army's communications division denied he made the calls.

Sega Diarra, the editor of maliactu.net, said that on Tuesday he published a summary of the AP story, which detailed how a team of AP reporters spent six months tracking down the graves of six civilians said to have been killed by the military in the

wake of France's intervention to drive out al-Qaida in its former colony.

An internal report by the Malian ministry of defence that was described to the AP but never made public said that the civilians were killed by a rogue unit of five Malian soldiers.

The ministry of defence has denied the killings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mohamed Ould Ali holds up a photo of his father Ali Ould Kabbad, known as "Vieux Ali," in Bamako, Mali. Vieux Ali went missing on Feb. 14. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario

Man convicted in Stafford killing to get publicly funded lawyer in appeal

The man convicted of killing eight-year-old Victoria Stafford should get a publicly funded lawyer as he tries to appeal, Ontario's highest court ruled Tuesday.

Michael Rafferty's case is too complex for someone with a Grade 9 education in segregation and with no access to a law library to handle on his own with the assistance of duty counsel, Appeal Court Justice Marc Rosenberg ruled.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travel

Tourists to be charged new fee for electronic application

The federal government is soliciting public comment on a plan to introduce online travel applications as part of the sweeping perimeter security pact with the United States.

Foreign nationals who currently do not need a visa to visit Canada would have to successfully apply for an electronic travel authorization and would be charged a new fee before arriving by air.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alaska. Auction profits from Sarah Palin's SUV causes city council stir

An Alaska community's sale on eBay of a vehicle used by former mayor Sarah Palin has caused a stir in small-town politics.

The city of Wasilla, just north of Anchorage, auctioned off the 1999 Expedition used by Palin during her second term as mayor on the website. A Fairbanks woman bought it for \$10,300 US, about \$8,000 over its value.

The city will use the money to replenish its vehicle-replacement fund. But Deputy Mayor

Colleen Sullivan-Leonard proposed using the funds to restock the local food pantry.

That proposal died Monday when Mayor Verne Rupright declined to break a 3-3 council tie.

Sullivan-Leonard says it's unfortunate Rupright is capitalizing on Palin's name to fatten city coffers. Rupright says it's just good business when you can get more money than expected for surplus equipment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The 1999 Ford Expedition Sarah Palin used when she was the mayor of Wasilla, Alaska. THE CITY OF WASILLA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Winnipeg stands up to violence against women

Disturbing pattern.

The Peg plants a flag next to UN campaign in hopes of raising awareness on female aboriginal victims

Manitoba's capital is the first Canadian city to join a United Nations campaign aimed at reducing violence against women and there's hope that the move will specifically address why a disproportionate number of Canada's aboriginal women are victims.

Winnipeg joins more than 15 other cities around the

world, including New Delhi, Cairo and Kigali, Rwanda. The program has led to the inclusion of women's safety audits in urban planning in some of the cities and the banning of sexual harassment in public places in others.

In Winnipeg, police plan to team up with community groups to identify which parts of the city need immediate attention. Some aboriginal leaders are hoping the initiative will focus on sexual and racial violence facing native women, including the number of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Manitoba.

Leslie Spillett, executive director of the native or-

ganization Ka Ni Kanichihk, said the province has the third-highest number of such women in Canada.

"Currently, there are 79 documented cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women," she said Tuesday. "This initiative will help to shine the light on the underlying factors that replicate this alarming and increasing rate of violence but, more importantly, we hope that it will identify appropriate and long-term prevention strategies."

Spillett noted that most of the other cities identified to participate in the UN campaign are in the developing world. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Scratching out Santa's hit list

The Abbotsford, B.C., police is admitting "even Santa makes mistakes" with its greeting card that features a bad Santa writing "I will not play with guns." Last year's card, featuring Chief Bob Rich as Santa in full tactical gear, drew a massive response, said Const. Ian MacDonald. MacDonald said response to last year's card was 90 per cent positive, but added it was "probably over the top" to send a card with Santa dressed in SWAT gear to 80 prolific offenders, property offenders, and people involved in drugs, gangs and domestic abuse.

COURTESY ABBOTSFORD POLICE

Suicides. Military searching for answers

Former soldiers, veterans advocates and lawmakers were presented with duelling theories about what might be at the heart of a sudden chain of suicides and attempted suicides this fall among serving members of the Canadian military.

Testimony before two Parliamentary committees Tuesday struggled to explain

what some say is inexplicable — the tragic, deeply personal decision of someone to end their own life.

Although the Harper government has invested millions of dollars bolstering mental-health services at National Defence, the House of Commons defence committee was told scant attention is paid to helping transition to

civilian life.

The veterans affairs committee also heard that the perceived financial uncertainty of veterans benefits is driving some soldiers to the brink. The debate is taking place against the backdrop of at least four apparent military suicides within a week in different parts of the country. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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E-copter gets \$1.65M through crowdfunding



An image of the Volocopter CONTRIBUTED

Volocopter. Creators hope to start selling them in 2015 for delivery in 2016

Fresh from completing the first electric flight, the German engineers at E-Volo have scooped \$1.65 million US in a crowdfunding campaign for

their Volocopter design, believed to be a world record.

The craft is an ultra-light aircraft that runs on batteries. CEO Stephan Wolf is excited.

Why do people like it so much?

E-mobility is extending through so many industries and this has captured the imagination — so many people have sent emails saying they

love it. Also, the launch and landing are key with flights and electric aircraft can be controlled better.

When will they hit the market?

We will get the licence next year — so far we have not even flown in it. After that we can start to sell them in 2015 for delivery in 2016. At this point we are only producing ultra light class for two

people but in theory it can be scaled to any size, even powered only by batteries. **Will this be the future of drones?**

The term is a bit military but of course it is possible. We have remote-controlled a small model so it is perfectly realistic to build drones, but at the moment we are thinking of manned aircraft.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Comet chaser. Scientists get set to give deep-space probe its wake-up call

When Europe's Rosetta probe gets roused from its deep-space slumber next month, scientists are hoping it will be fit and ready for the final stage of its daring mission to land a spacecraft on a comet.

There is little room for mistakes as the coming months involve a high-speed chase, a delicate dance around comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, and finally the precision drop of a lander onto its icy surface — set for Nov. 11.

"Imagine trying to parachute onto the tip of a mountain," said Paolo Ferri, head of mission operations at the European Space Agency.

The lander — called Philae — will drop onto the surface of 67P and latch on using a harpoon, to prevent it from drifting off into space due to the comet's weak gravity.

Launched in 2004, Rosetta has already spent almost 10 years in space preparing for its big day.

The spacecraft has been in hibernation for more than



An artist's impression of the Rosetta orbiter deploying the Philae lander to comet 67P.

ESA, C.CARRÉAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

two years now to conserve energy.

One key question scientists hope the mission can help answer is whether comets are responsible for the water on Earth as comets have remained largely unchanged since the beginning of the universe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The big day

Britain sets date when same-sex couples can marry

Save the date: The British government announced Tuesday that the country's first same-sex weddings can be held on Saturday, March 29.

Equalities Minister Maria Miller said from then on marriage "will be open to everyone, irrespective of whether they fall in love with someone of the same sex or opposite sex."

"This is just another step in the evolution of marriage and I know that many couples up and down the country will be hugely

excited that they can now plan for their big day and demonstrate their love and commitment to each other by getting married," she said.

Parliament legalized same-sex marriage in England and Wales in July, with the backing of the leaders of the three main political parties.

Gay couples will be able to get married in civil ceremonies, and in religious services from orders that authorize it — though the country's main Protestant order, the Church of England, is split on the issue and is barred from marrying gay couples.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tuesday - Saturday	11:00 AM - 6:30 PM	Richmond Road Diagnostic Treatment Centre 1820 Richmond Road SW
Tuesday - Saturday	11:00 AM - 6:30 PM	South Calgary Health Centre 31 Sunpark Plaza SE

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For more info, including local clinic details, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca or call **Health Link Alberta** at 1.866.408.5465 (LINK).

Altruism? Silicon Valley fights to protect personal data ... and the bottom line

Even as Silicon Valley speaks out against the U.S. government's surveillance methods, technology companies are turning a handsome profit by mining personal data and peering into people's online habits.

The industry's profit machine has become tarnished by revelations that the National Security Agency digs deep into the everyday lives of Web surfers. As a result, companies including Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo are becoming more aggressive in their attempts to counter any perception that they voluntarily give the government access to users' email and other sensitive information.

Advertising dollars

At stake is the trust of massive online audiences that attract digital advertising. As companies collect personal data and learn more about each user's interests and habits, advertising becomes easier to sell.

Microsoft's general counsel, Brad Smith, said in a blog post last week that the U.S. government's online surveillance efforts "threaten to seriously undermine confidence in the security and privacy of online communications."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fans funnel hot air from the computer servers at a Google data center. Google and other tech giants have voiced concern about government surveillance.

CONNIE ZHOU/GOOGLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Lululemon Athletica Inc. founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chairman of the board after making controversial remarks regarding women's bodies. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Namaste: Founder of Lululemon out after latest blunder

Stretching in new directions. The Vancouver-based company names a new CEO as it moves on from its annus horribilis

Lululemon Athletica named a new chief executive Tuesday and announced founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chairman as the athletic clothing retailer looked to put a difficult 2013 behind it.

The changes mark the end

Sheer madness

"Quite frankly, some women's bodies just actually don't work for it."

Lululemon founder Chip Wilson, in an interview last month ignited a storm of criticism by suggesting to Bloomberg TV that production issues may not be the only issue regarding the sheerness of its Luon yoga pants.

of the five years of dramatic growth of the Vancouver-based company with Wilson and outgoing CEO Christine Day at the helm.

The company said Tuesday that Laurent Potdevin will take

over as chief executive next month. Potdevin, who began his career at luxury retailer LVMH, most recently served as president of Toms Shoes.

Day has overseen the company's expansion beyond yoga clothes to all manner of workout gear, more than tripling the company's share value since she took over as chief executive in 2008.

However, Lululemon has struggled this year with its first major stumble when it pulled its black Luon pants from store shelves after customer complaints that the pants were too sheer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Got the maximum

Exec jailed after selling faulty breast implants

A French businessman who sold tens of thousands of breast implants filled with industrial-grade silicone and prone to leaks was convicted of fraud on Tuesday and sentenced to the maximum four years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cultural Institute Lab

France turns nose up at Google amid privacy row

France's culture minister has snubbed the launch of Google's latest project, the Paris-based Cultural Institute Lab over a row about privacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Barra

GM names first woman to head a U.S. car company

General Motors picked Mary Barra, its product development chief and a 33-year company veteran, as its next CEO. She will become the first female head of a major U.S. car company. GM said Tuesday Barra, 51, will replace Dan Akerson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mary Barra THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Bouncy baby seat with iPad causes concern



Not your mother's bouncy seat: The Apptivity Seat comes with an attachment for an iPad. SCREEN GRAB

Ahh, the first year of a baby's life — learning to sit up, crawl, even walk. But how about playtime in a bouncy seat with an iPad and some cool apps?

Fisher-Price is selling a baby bouncy seat with an attachment where parents can insert an iPad so baby can watch video content aimed at the youngest children — an idea that is being criticized by the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood. The Boston-based advocacy group started an online petition campaign Tuesday, urging Fisher-Price to recall its Newborn-to-Toddler Apptivity Seat

for iPads.

CCFC says it's not healthy for a baby's development and encourages parents to leave baby alone. "Babies thrive when they are talked to, played with and cuddled, not when they are alone with a screen," said Susan Linn, the group's director, in an interview.

Fisher-Price, in response, said the Apptivity Seat is a niche product that is only available online — one of more than a dozen bouncy seats for infants — and is not meant to be seen as an educational product for children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOUNDATIONS

We offer English language upgrading to help ESL learners live, work or pursue further education in Canada. Use this session to discover the English Language Foundations full- and part-time course collection, your funding options and what we can do to support your goals.

Join us Wednesday, December 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in Room NH309 in the Senator Burns Building.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, please call 403.210.4045 or email elf.infosession@sait.ca.

HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Are you interested in a career which provides endless opportunities, both here in Canada and worldwide? The Hospitality Management Program offers relevant and skill orientated education which provides our students with successful career pathways into the dynamic and global industry of hospitality.

Join us Wednesday, December 11 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in Room MA128 in Heritage Hall.

Call 403.210.4343 or email hospitality.info@sait.ca for more information or to confirm your attendance.

BROADCAST SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Looking for a unique career that combines your resourcefulness with your technical expertise? The Broadcast Systems Technology program at SAIT Polytechnic is the perfect answer as it focuses on the technical aspects of the broadcast industry, and qualifies graduates for well-paying jobs that are in high-demand.

Get trained on emerging digital systems so you can start a career you will love in the exciting world of audio and video technologies!. Parents and prospective students are invited to a Free Information Session to learn more about SAIT Polytechnic's Broadcast Systems Technology program.

Join us on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm in Room E114 in the John Ware Building.

Call 403.284.8081 or email bxst.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

EXPLORATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Are you interested in an oil and gas career that combines geology and geophysics and computer science? If so, then SAIT's two year, Exploration Information Technology diploma program is for you.

Join us on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm in Room MA118 in the Heritage Hall Building.

Call 403.210.5753 or email expt.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PRINT TECHNOLOGY

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Join us on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm in Room H101 in the Senator Burns Building.

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Considering a career in the skilled trades but not sure where to start? Join us for a FREE information session and learn how to jumpstart your journey with our pre-employment training programs in Cabinetmaker, Carpentry, Plumbing, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.

Join us Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm in MacDonald Hall in the Heritage Hall Building; program breakout session to follow.

Confirm your attendance and program of choice by visiting sait.ca, calling 403.284.8367 or email construction.info@sait.ca.

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HYPNAGOGIA SOUNDS LIKE A SNOOZE

OK, it's time to get up close and personal.

Do you take naps?

I'm not sure what prompted that question, but it occurred to me during a session in the "thinking chair" in my office.

Some of my best ideas happen in the thinking chair, usually just before someone starts snoring and the walls start to reverberate. If I ever find out who's doing it...

Turns out I'm not the only one who becomes inspired in that twilight zone between sleeping and waking, that place where you're starting to dream but haven't fallen asleep yet.

That state, which is called hypnagogia, was visited frequently by Edison, Einstein, Aristotle and Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali, he of the landscapes featuring melting clocks. Hypnagogic, dude.

So, napping is not a sign of increasing senility, but a powerful creative tool. Hence the term "power nap." Superman prob-



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

ably knocks off a few power zzzzs when he's all cosy in the Fortress of Solitude. Nobody calls Superman senile, although there is that giant 's' on his chest.

There is some research to suggest power naps help prevent heart attacks, although that could be because people who engage in cardiovascular exercise have a tendency to get calm and drowsy after their workout. The jury is still out ... like a light.

If you've tried power napping and only end up feeling groggy afterwards, it's probably because you're not doing it right. I know, I know, what's to learn? Close your eyes, count to 10 ... how long was I out?

If you go past Hypnagogia Land into the realms of deeper sleep lasting longer than 20 minutes, that's not good, as you could end up with sleep inertia, which makes you groggy and grumpy.

Dali, he of the hypnagogic melting clocks, had a trick that prevented him from succumbing to the rapture of the depths. He would hold a key in his right hand, which he would then dangle over a plate. As soon as he started to heed the call of the Sandman, the key would drop out of his hand and clatter on the plate. Then he'd be up, refreshed, and back to his melting clocks. He called it "just the necessary amount of repose."

If you're still worried what everyone will think if you catnap at the controls of your 747, remember that entire cultures are based on the nap, only they call it the siesta, which sounds poetic, lyrical. People who take siestas never drool, for example.

The siesta is associated with the twin drivers of leisurely noonday meals and warm summer afternoons characteristic of Mediterranean climates, but you can try it here too, where it's all fast food and frost.

And if you start to do your best work immediately after a power nap, remember that it worked for Edison and Einstein. OK, maybe you have to try a little harder.

Five more minutes?

ZOOM

It lights up a horse's behind



REX FEATURES

Safety first with glitzy horse lights

A California-based firm has invented the first safety lighting for horses. Tail Lights are LED lights that drape through a horse's tail to provide a safe way to warn motorists of a horse and its rider. They are the brainchild of Sami Gros, who developed the idea after her friend was almost killed when a car struck her horse. **METRO**

Founder says



"It all began following a life-threatening accident. Despite using reflective gear, the horse ridden by my friend was hit from behind by a car as we were approaching the barn around dusk."

Sami Gros, founder of Tail Lights

'An attractive visual presence on the road'

The system consists of six water-resistant LED strips in the shape of a horse's tail. The LED strands are attached to the base of the tail by a specially designed neoprene tail wrap. According to its designers, the lights do not emit heat, are water resistant and allow for free movement of the tail — and make "an attractive visual presence on the road." **METRO**



A Kickstarter campaign was launched to raise the \$100,000 needed to make the innovation widely available.

COURTESY TAIL-LIGHTS.COM

Clickbait



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COURTESY BOOMF

As the holiday shopping season descends on us all, Metro has a few ideas on what to get that person in your life who lives on social media. Here are some sites that will take your Instagram photos and turn them into Insta-gifts.

Printstagram (printstagr.am)

A one-stop shop for turning your favourite social media photos into everything from cards, to posters or stickers.

Stitchtagram (stitchtagram.com):

Based in Washington, D.C., this company lets you design pillows, bags and purses using your Instagram snapshots.

Boomf (boomf.com):

This site will literally print Instagram photos onto bite-sized marshmallows (pictured) and deliver them to your door. What else would you expect from a company whose tagline is "turn your memories into magical morsels?"

Twitter

@metropicks asked: "We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again," Barack Obama said at Mandela's memorial. Who do you think will be the next Mandela?"

@WTarcisio: No one will replace Nelson Mandela and also Michael Jack-

son, Ayrton Senna and Elvis Presley.

@MA6hp: According to @kanyewest he is new #Mandela.

@flarkcon: That's ironic

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Forget Middle-earth, movies are overrun with strange elves

New movies. From the North Pole to Nazi Germany to stories that go nowhere, the elfin character gets lots of play on screen



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

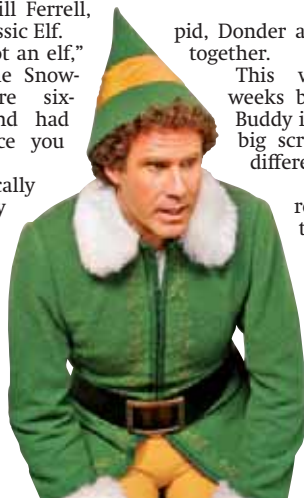
When we think of elves at this time of year visions of Santa's helpers fill our heads.

The cute, industrious and diminutive creatures from the North Pole can be seen everywhere in December in Christmas TV specials, greeting cards and movies like Arthur Christmas and Santa Claus: The Movie.

One of the most famous movie elves is Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, in the neoclassic Elf.

"You're not an elf," says Leon the Snowman. "You're six-foot-three and had a beard since you were 15."

So technically he's not really an elf, just a human raised by elves, but he has more Christmas spirit than Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cu-



pid, Donder and Blitzen put together.

This weekend, just weeks before Dec. 25, Buddy is joined on the big screen by a very different kind of elf.

"She's slightly reckless and totally ruthless and doesn't hesitate to kill."

That's how Evangeline Lilly describes the 600-year-old

"she-elf" Tauriel from this weekend's *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*.

The bow-and-arrow wielding character is new to the J.R.R. Tolkien movie franchise, created by director Peter Jackson and his co-writers Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens.

"She's our redhead," says Boyens.

"We created her for that reason. To bring that energy into the film, that feminine energy. We believe it's completely within the spirit of Tolkien."

Will Ferrell became a neoclassic elf in the Christmas movie *Elf*. CONTRIBUTED



Evangeline Lilly stars in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. CONTRIBUTED

Turn the page for more coverage of *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*

Buddy and Tauriel are just two of the many kinds of movie elves.

Elves (or Gelfling as they're called in the flick), are the main focus of the Jim Henson film *The Dark Crystal*.

Dobby the House Elf was voted the No. 1 favourite magical creature in the Harry Potter series by NextMovie.com and *Thor: The Dark World* featured Dark Elves, an ancient race of dangerous beings whose spaceships are powered by black holes.

The cheese-ball B-movie *Elves* features the tag line, "They're Not Working for Santa ... Anymore."

Well, if not Santa, then

who?

Nazis, that's who.

Finally Tom Cruise consorted with an elf named Honeythorn Gump in *Legend*, the Ridley Scott film *The New York Times* called "a slapdash amalgam of Old Testament, King Arthur, *The Lord of the Rings* and any number of comic books."

Swiss actor David Bennett played the feisty elfin sidekick who not only is the protector of the world's last two unicorns but, along with elves Screwball, Brown Tom and Oona, helps Cruise's character save the world from the nasty Lord of Darkness (Tim Curry).

2 SCENE



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Luke Evans no longer waiting in the wings

New movie. His work as Bard the Bowman was shot ages ago but it's just finally coming to audiences with the latest installment of *The Hobbit*



NED
EHRBAR

Metro World News in Hollywood

Last year, as the first *Hobbit* installment raked in more than \$1 billion worldwide, Welsh actor Luke Evans sat quietly by as Martin Freeman, Sir Ian McKellen and Richard Armitage got all the attention, since his work as Bard the Bowman wouldn't turn up until the second film, *The Desolation of Smaug*.

Well, Evans has to wait no longer.

After three *Lord of the Rings* films and the first *Hobbit*, it's kind of a foregone conclusion that New Zealand is a beautiful place, isn't it?

Yeah, I think we need to just



Luke Evans finally shows up in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. CONTRIBUTED

give up now. We all know this. Maybe we should just say, 'Actually, it's a s—hole,' (laughs). No, it's great. The Kiwis, they're very proud of their country and how they've preserved it in a really beautiful way, especially the South Island. It's so

unspoiled.

You filmed your part before even the first *Hobbit* had come out. What was it like last year watching the reactions and box office come in for that one, knowing that to audiences you still

weren't quite a part of it?

It was enjoyable, but it was also a bit of, 'Aw, shame I'm not part of this,' you know? But I've been very patient, I've bided my time, and now my turn has come and now I'm in the story and I'm not going anywhere now, I'm

here till the end. But it was exciting to watch.

Do you have an action figure yet?

I have a Lego character, that's quite cool. It's not so much action, he can't bend his arms, but he looks quite

Unboxing

"I have a Lego character, that's quite cool."

Luke Evans
Talking about getting an action figure in his image

cool. And he has a Lego Lake-town as well, and a little plastic bow and arrow. And he's got a really angry face.

So you didn't have any input on the Lego face?

No, no, obviously not. But it's great. I mean, it's a lovely thing, isn't it? That's the fun thing about being part of something as big as *The Hobbit*, things like that happen. Apparently Denny's, the cafe, have a whole Lake-town menu. They have, like, the Bard's Brew and the Bowman's Pumpkin Pie. I'm tempted to go down there and order it all and just sit there munching through a Denny's breakfast.

I wouldn't recommend that, actually.

No, no, of course.

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BALE COOPER RENNER ADAMS LAWRENCE

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Benedict Cumberbatch. 'I feel like I'm the cheat at the table, really'

Most actors involved in the *Hobbit* series of films talk about the joys of becoming de facto residents of New Zealand, moving to the lower hemisphere to film three movies back-to-back-to-back. But Benedict Cumberbatch, who performs as the greedy dragon Smaug (and did some motion-capture work as the Necromancer), was there for barely more than a week.

"That was the biggest con of doing this. Hearing all these stories of the live action harrowing-ness, and all the amazing work these people put in, I did my work in about eight days," Cumberbatch says. "I feel like I'm the cheat at the table really."

On top of that, while the bulk of his screen time is spent sparring with his Sherlock co-star, Martin Freeman, as the titular hobbit, he and Freeman weren't actually present for any of each others performances.

"I didn't spend any sort of live time with Martin, which was sad," he says. "We know each other quite well so we kind of second-guessed in a weird way our performances to some degree, I guess. It's a very different dynamic, very different. (On 'Sherlock') I'm in the room with him and



Benedict Cumberbatch GETTY IMAGES

I'm not the flying, psychotic napalm machine. I could be dismissive of him as Dr. Watson as my Sherlock, but they're friends. Very different."

While he and Freeman are old pals, there was a whole cast of co-stars he missed out on befriending.

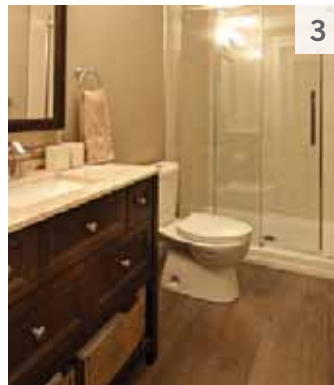
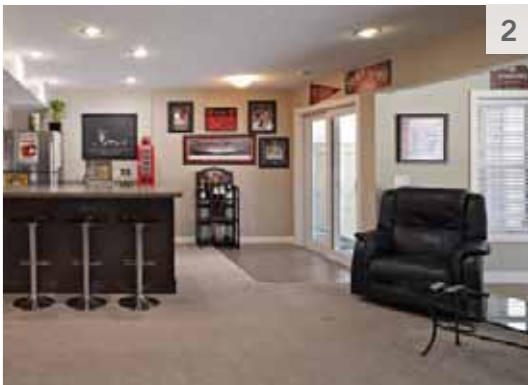
"Sadly, I met hardly any of the cast," he says. "Richard (Armitage) and I met once. I crossed over with people as they were coming back to do I think their third stint, I think. I've had scenes with people I haven't even met yet. So that is bizarre."

Also bizarre? Embodying a dragon for his motion-capture performance, something

a bit more abstract and reptilian than Andy Serkis' work as Gollum.

"It's only going to be an impression of something that's a serpentine reptile who can breathe fire and fly because I'm a limited biped mammal, sorry about that," he jokes. "But Peter (Jackson) knew that when I auditioned. So we worked with my sort of negatives and tried to turn them into positives."

That work involved quite a bit of contortion and discomfort. "One of the ways I did it was trying to squeeze my legs together, just forgetting the fact that they were legs, just trying to feel that as an elongated body." NED EHRBAR/MWN



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Richard Armitage. It's hard out there for a dwarf in Middle-earth



Richard Armitage GETTY IMAGES

As Thorin Oakenshield, the leader of the 13-dwarf team out to best a dragon and return their people to power, Richard Armitage has his work cut out for him in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*.

But the British actor probably wasn't expecting that work to be quite so harrowing, like when they filmed an elaborate action sequence involving the dwarfs riding in barrels down a raging river.

"I think the most dangerous part of filming the barrel sequence was when we were in these little cut-off Flintstones-style barrels which were powered by our feet. It was like dodgems and

we were bumping into each other," Armitage says.

"It came together in quite a few different places on the Pelorus River, which was an extremely fast-flowing river. I did end up getting dragged under by that very current."

And if the forces of nature trying to drown him weren't enough, he also had director Peter Jackson's best technicians trying their hands at it as well.

"They were dumping tons of water on us and trying to get us to go under the water. But I think Martin had the most difficult role in that, because he wasn't in a barrel. But I think it was worth it."

NED EHRBAR/MWN

Peter Jackson insists: 'We're being pretty generous with one year'

Interview. Director of *The Hobbit* trilogy understands why fans might be upset by this edition's cliffhanger but points to others who have done worse

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

While the first *Hobbit* film turned in huge business at the box office, Peter Jackson faced some harsh criticism from fans and reviewers with his return to Middle-earth. And as much as he would have liked to course-correct, there wasn't much wiggle room going into the second installment.

"There wasn't really any ability to respond too much because we had already shot everything pretty much, apart from the 10 weeks of pick-ups we did this year, which half of that was the third movie," he says of the process.

"By the time we were done with pick-ups I was just getting in my groove."

Some things have changed this year, though. From Jackson and the film company.

There's less chest-pumping about high frame rates — in fact Jackson and company apparently aren't eager to bring up 48 frames per second this time around, though it will be offered at select screenings.

And the story is bigger, with more interweaving plot threads to give audiences a break periodically from Bilbo and the dwarfs.

"The good thing with the middle film is that you don't have to set things up, you can just drop into the story assuming that no one is going to see this film that didn't see the first one," he says.

"Unfortunately, (despite) the romance of the big



Peter Jackson is being much more reserved about the latest installment's 48 frames per second this time around.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

screen, the 3-D and everything else, the ultimate life of these movies is going to be one on Blu-rays, download and hopefully for years to come. That is where they are going to find their ultimate resting place. So you are telling a continuous story. It's three movies but it is telling one narrative arc and you are trying to make each film

work individually. This is the part in the middle where you pick up your foot and put it the gas pedal."

With the latest installment, Jackson is well aware some viewers might find its cliffhanger ending a bit unsatisfying, with a full year to wait for the conclusion.

"We did have a discussion about it. It was just a chance

that was very rare where you do films back-to-back, to be able to end on a cliffhanger," he says.

"I remember when I was 17, 19 years old, I remember the big *Empire Strikes Back* cliffhanger. It was, like, three years before the next one came out. We're being pretty generous with one year."

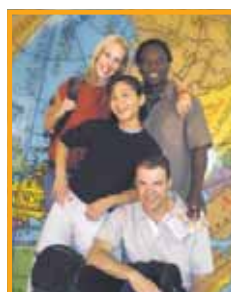
Notice of Hearing for Permanent Guardianship Order To Ashley Deschamps

Take notice that on the 3rd day of January, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, a hearing will take place.

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Angry Birds Go! is the latest installment in the avian franchise. CONTRIBUTED

Angry Birds are off to the races with soapbox derby

Gaming. Our favourite pig-bashing critters flock back for a zany downhill contest that's easy to get into, but harder to master

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Any birdbrain can get behind the wheel of a rickety soapbox racer, but it'll take a gaming boffin to complete Angry Birds Go!, game developer Rovio's latest title out now. The 3D Piggy Island derby pits players against classic characters (Red, Chuck, Stella, King Pig) in wacky races like Fruit Splat, Versus and Race Challenges.

It's a virtual petrol-head shot of Mario Kart-style mischief, suitable for any occasion from the morning commute to curling up on the couch for an evening session.

The game is as addictive as it is Luddite-proof. The company that has expanded its Angry Birds franchise into animations, theme parks and merchandise plans to release a feature film in 2016. Rovio Entertainment EVP Jami Laes tells Metro about why the free download is the best on the market and the future of entertainment.

Did you deliberately make this version particularly user-friendly compared to earlier Angry Birds games?

As our audience has grown, we want to make the gaming experience as accessible as possible. The game is easy to get into but hard to master

and hard to beat. There's a level of learning required — you have to peel away the game's layers to progress.

What are those layers?

The core is always the same: the soapbox derby with one character and one kart. But as you progress, you learn about top speed, acceleration and handling and how the characters have different powers. Gamers learn how to utilize their skill sets for the different events: Fruit Splat, Time Challenges or Boss Fights — it's a tactical and strategic game.

Is this to prolong the game's shelf life?

Definitely. By providing more diversity and different challenges, we find it's the best way to keep players engaged and really get into the gaming experience for a longer period of time.

It reminds me of Mario Kart and Sonic. Did you have these games in mind during development?

I mean we've all played Mario Kart on the N64 but it's a very different UI (user experience) with the tilt and tap controls. It is straightforward downhill soapbox racing. We built something for the play patterns and usability of the touchscreen generation rather than imitate something else out there.

Obviously players are going to compare this Angry Birds game to its predecessors. Did you find it difficult to produce something that's going to live up to the franchise's past successes?

I don't think we did. We're

going in a very different direction. It's a non-slingshot gameplay pattern — but there are similarities in terms of the characters, humour and mayhem and there's some physics involved. We felt comfortable producing what we thought is the right game for today's audience's gameplay patterns, rather than replicate what we did with Angry Birds' earlier slingshot games.

Candy Crush is one of the biggest hits at the moment. What has this game got over the current competition?

It's the best casual racing game out there. It's the most polished and approachable, with a wide-reaching appeal. Unlike Candy Crush, we're not going for middle-aged women. We're going for tweens and above — the gamer generation.

What's the future of smartphone games? How is the users' experience going to evolve?

Multiplayer is coming but we want to make it absolutely perfect so that it really resonates with those players who want to play competitive multiplayer or in leagues.

What hasn't made it big is true social or multiplayer gameplay. There are a lot of genres that could benefit from that synchronous or asynchronous game play. What we'll see in the future is multi-screen gaming so you can hop from one screen to another, so that you can actually have a meaningful journey or experience. In the future, as consumers become more educated in different gaming genres, we'll be able to create more diverse mash-ups.

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The Word

Tila Tequila
takes a turn
for the worse

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Last year, Tila Tequila was rushed to the hospital for some terrible reason or another (news sites said it was either a brain aneurysm, a drug overdose or a suicide attempt). Radar Online claimed a brain aneurysm made her “think irrationally” and ingest “two bottles of unspecified heavy prescription drugs.” Sources told Radar Online that as a result of whatever happened, she probably suffered “permanent brain damage.”

Well, that alleged brain damage may have been on display early Monday morning with the faded reality TV star posting some crazy-pants rants on Facebook (over 12 in a 24-hour period). So crazy, it is hard to write about it in a sensible manner.



“I never said I hated anyone, but just because I feel sympathy, compassion, and forgiveness for others such as Hitler means I am now a monster? All for trying to open your eyes to the truth that Hitler was NOT as bad as he was painted out to be?” she wrote. She then posted a photo to prove that “EVERY ETHNIC PERSON WAS INVOLVED IN WWII... NOT JUST GERMAN PEOPLE!” See? Crazy.

“Blacks, Asians, Jews,

Middle Easterners and so on... ALL WERE NAZIS!!! But did you ever hear about this? NO! Because the Zionist Cabal doesn't want you to know the truth but I will speak the truth for GOD since NO ONE ELSE HAS THE BALLS TO!”

Well then!

Crazy online ranting is nothing new to Tequila this week. Over the weekend, she first raised eyebrows when she blamed Paul Walker's death on a “ritualistic murder” rather than what it was — a tragic car accident.

“I believe I am the only person on this entire planet who knows what happened I have just kept my mouth shut because there is a lot more to it and of course ... cases like this,” Tila wrote about the mysterious case of Elisa Lam, a 21-year-old University of British Columbia student whose body was found in a water tank at a downtown Los Angeles hotel this year.

She then equated that death with Walker's. “I just did not want to draw any attention to myself but I know exactly why they did it and yes it was indeed a ritualistic murder. Just like Paul Walker's.”

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Harry Styles. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Harry and hook-up hang
out in Hell's Kitchen

Maybe Harry Styles and Kendall Jenner were looking for an under-the-radar place to hang out, but a gay bar in New York City clearly wasn't it. After Styles' Saturday Night Live performance with One Direction, he and his rumoured girlfriend had a busy night of party-hopping, stopping for

a bit at Hell's Kitchen gay bar Therapy, according to E! News. A source says Styles and Jenner “were having a great time” and “for sure looked like they were a couple. They had a blast.” The fact that Styles is 19 and Jenner is 18 — and the drinking age in the U.S. is 21 — didn't seem to factor into their having a blast.

Perry pans parents' presidential politics

Katy Perry tries to not let politics come between her and her conservative parents — except when an invitation to Barack Obama's inauguration is involved. “My parents are Republicans, and I'm not,” she tells Marie Claire. “They didn't vote for Obama, but when I was asked to sing at the inauguration, they were like, ‘We can come.’ And I was like, No, you can't. I love you so much, but that — on principle.” They



Katy Perry

understood, but I was like, ‘How dare you?’ in a way.”

Twitter



@SteveMartinToGo

Football players are such weenies. I'm injured all the time while writing, yet I continue.



@ParisHilton

I am so horrified that someone would hire a plane to fly over Paul Walker's crash site with messages from me. So disrespectful.



@KellyOsbourne

Lets play a game #WordsThatDriveYouNuts ok here is a good one 'moist.' Moist is a awful word! Just say it... Moist! AHHHHHHHH!!! YOUR TURN!



Bradley Cooper

Suki stays
(sort of) silent
about celeb
squeeze

Bradley Cooper and girlfriend Suki Waterhouse made their first official appearance together as a couple at the American Hustle premiere party in New York this weekend, according to TMZ. While they've been spotted out and about before, both have worked hard to keep mum about the relationship “because it's boring,” Waterhouse recently told Elle U.K. “I'm not one of those girls who goes on about their boyfriends. I do think whatever I say will sound weird. But the truth is, if I start talking about him, I probably won't be able to stop.”



Courteney Cox

B-lister
brings beau
to Bel Air

It looks like Courteney Cox may have found some new romance for the holidays with Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid, according to Life & Style. McDaid accompanied Cox to Jennifer Aniston's Bel Air holiday party in November and wasn't shy about her feelings.

“Courteney definitely looked like she was on a date,” a source says. “They were holding hands during the party.” Cox's ex-husband, David Arquette, let slip during a chat with Howard Stern on Oct. 31 that she was dating someone new after splitting from Cougar Town co-star Brian Van Holt. “She's with someone who loves and cares for her,” Arquette said. “That's all I care about.”

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You'll love this Cancun resort to the Moon and back

Sun and fun. Winter's icy grip is upon us, might we suggest beaches and bubbly?

GINA ANGELOTTI
Metro World News in New York

Moon Palace Cancun is a sprawling all-inclusive waterfront resort minutes from Cancun International Airport. Divided into three sections — Sunrise, Nizuc and Grand — each has its own character, landscape, demographic, restaurants and amenities. Once you put on a guest bracelet at check-in, you're not only given access to these "phases," which while walkable are connected by a lobby-to-lobby bus service, but you're also allowed to visit other Palace properties in the region. With seemingly limitless entertainment and dining options, the real party in Cancun happens here.

As the bellman explained the extensive features of our deluxe room at Grand, it became apparent that this resort was built with newlyweds in mind. With an in-room jacuzzi — standard for all suites — and a furnished patio, our accommodations were quite large for a single person.

But it wasn't long before we took advantage of the cavern-



Enjoy a cocktail by one of the resort's beautiful pools. PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED/MOON RESORT

ous marble shower, swim-suit-ed up and set out for sunshine. While climbing stairs that led to the nearest pool, we almost stepped on one of dozens of sunbathing iguanas that would appear over three days.

Outstretched in a chaise under the shade of palm fronds and umbrellas, the heat was welcome. There were more chairs embedded in a shallow shelf of water along the pool's perimeter, and these prime seats were often occupied.

But when the water gets to be too much, guests will be happy to know that Moon Palace has a spa, two salons and daily yoga in an on-site meditation garden.

Even though it briefly

rained each day, the side effects were positive: The loudest guests — mostly families — abandoned the deck, and the ocean breeze rolled in to whip our paperbacks' pages and the napkins under our cocktails du jour. Wash, rinse, repeat: We pool-hopped like this for the rest of the trip.

One afternoon at the Sunrise pool's coal-fired pizza oven, two newlyweds chit-chatted with other guests in line. An older woman advised the couple, "It only gets better." Smiling, the husband of the pair responded: "We've been here three days and each one has gotten better."

Just beyond these pools is the quieter beachfront. Al-

though a hefty bit of seaweed clutters the otherwise sea glass-green waters — not on par with the Mayan Riviera's reputation for pristine beaches — the sandbars are the glorious temperature of bathwater and the sand itself is the softest we've bared our feet for. Each time we walked the shoreline between the phases, we shuffled through heart after heart etched in the sand. We eventually caved and drew one, too.

"Have you ever been kissed by a Mexican?" asked Miguel, a trainer at Moon Palace's own dolphinarium, where guests get a show and a wet smooch from one of eight bottlenose dolphins. A professional photographer on hand means that

For the kids

- While there are hoards of honeymooners — Moon Palace hosts more than a thousand weddings annually — the resort is actually bursting at the seams with families. The appeal is as strong for the under-18 set as it is for grown-ups. Parents relax poolside while their kids roam independently with minimal risk, and vice-versa. Plus, the all-inclusive element means that, cost-wise, parents don't need to utter the dreaded word "no" very often. Kids seem elated; adults look relieved.

guests take home a souvenir portrait that's a step up from a smartphone selfie.

On the last evening of the trip, we had an unexpectedly exceptional meal at Los Tacos.

At the poolside snack bar, surrounded by a ring of romantic canopied beds and mangroves, a flirtatious waiter brought to our table a heaping plate of nachos that we didn't actually order. But it didn't matter, because the tortilla chips swimming in cheese, grilled pork and pineapples were as gratifying as the tumbler of Dos Equis we washed them down with.

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Gone fishin' — in a tiny Quebec town

Put the cod on ice.

River turns into a town of fishing huts when the temperature drops

A fish tale that began 75 years ago has turned a small Quebec town into an international winter destination.

Today, Sainte-Anne-de-la-Perade boasts that it's the world capital for tommycod fishing as it welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually.

As the story goes, it began in 1938, when a local grocer went out on the nearby Sainte-Anne River to cut up blocks of ice which he would put into boxes to keep his meat refrigerated.

When he cut through the ice, he noticed small codfish in the river. The word spread and fishing huts soon began springing up every winter, turning part of the river into a small village on ice.

During the early days, because roads were closed



Sainte-Anne-de-la-Perade welcomes tens of thousands of visitors each year to fish in the Sainte-Anne River. THE CANADIAN PRESS

during the winter, people came by train to fish and scoop up the tommycod, also known as tomcod. Horse-drawn sleigh carriages were used to bring the eager visitors to the

fishing chalets.

Steve Massicotte, a town councillor and president of the Sainte-Anne River Outfitters Association, says the wood-heated chalets were originally quite small.

"In the beginning, there were chalets that could accommodate four, six, up to a maximum of eight people," he said in an interview.

"Since the '80s, we have chalets that can accommodate 25 to 30 people."

Massicotte says 500 fishing huts are now set up each winter along one-and-a-half kilometres of the Sainte-Anne River and that more than 80,000 eager tourists drop by every year to enjoy the winter fishing.

In one period, during the 1950s and '60s, as many as 1,200 tiny chalets covered the ice on the river. The tommycod fishing season officially starts on Dec. 26 and runs until Feb. 16. Sainte-Anne-de-la-Perade is located between Montreal and Quebec City, about a 25-minute drive east of Trois-Rivières.

"People come from everywhere in the world to fish," Massicotte said, noting that along with Europeans and Russians, much of the clientele comes from China and elsewhere in Asia.

"People find it magical, just to be able to walk on a river," he added.

For Massicotte, it's almost like shooting fish in a barrel.

"The small fish actually arrive at the beginning of December and there are about 800 million that enter the Sainte-Anne River and leave at the end of February," he said.

Fishing lines hang from the ceiling of the hut and drop into an ice hole that's 30 centimetres wide.

Each person has two or three lines to watch and as many as a dozen people can

fish at a time. They can reel in between 150 and 250 fish in 10 hours.

"There's no permit needed and no limit to what can be taken," Massicotte said. "People in the cabins can sometimes get 200, 300, 500 fish."

It costs \$28 per person for adults to fish on weekends and \$25 during the week. It's half-price for children 6-12 and free for kids five and under.

"For children, it's a fish that poses no danger, there are no sharp points, no teeth," Massicotte noted.

A tommycod can measure anywhere from 15 to 35 centimetres long.

There are no family rates, but everything is included - even the wood for the stoves that heat the huts.

"People can fish in total comfort," he said. "When the stove really heats up, it can raise the temperature up to 25-30 degrees (Celsius) inside the chalet."

There are also electrical outlets for small appliances like radios. But people have to bring their own food.

Massicotte suggests tourists may also want to consider coming to fish during the week because weekends are often all booked.

There's also night fishing which goes on until six in the morning. Visitors can even park their cars outside the chalets.

This season, various sporting events are being added to the list of activities held on the ice.

There will be a beach volleyball tournament during the weekend of Jan. 18 and

Quoted

"People come from everywhere in the world to fish."

Town councillor Steve Massicotte

a pond hockey tournament - with boots, not skates - the following weekend.

The town also holds a big festival, beginning Feb. 1, where a tent set up on the river becomes the focal point for music and entertainment.

Massicotte also stressed that people shouldn't worry about falling through the ice, which has to be at least 30 centimetres thick. In late winter, in February, the ice can get a thick as one metre.

"It's very, very safe," he said, noting that heavy-duty tractors are used to move the chalets out onto the ice.

"We go on the river with tractors (and) they are pretty heavy machines and we wouldn't do that if the ice wasn't safe."

Massicotte says finding lodgings nearby should not be a problem. But he cautions to reserve ahead of time.

"We have local inns, small bed-and-breakfasts, where people can reserve rooms and we also have hotels and motels that are situated nearby at Trois-Rivières and St-Marc-Des-Carrières," he added.

"It's important to make reservations because we know that between 80,000 and 100,000 people come through, so places are limited."

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Metro's travel myth busting

Travel myths are like urban legends — there are lots of them and nobody really knows how they got started. Luckily, Metro's resident travel expert Loren Christie is here to set the record straight.



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Want to fly first class? Just ask!



Myth: Ask nicely and you'll get upgraded to first class.

Reality: Sorry, you need more than manners to get seated with the pretty people. When it comes to upgrades, loyalty pays. With cost structures and loyalty programs in place, airlines reserve upgrades to first class to a very select few, such as passengers cashing in program points and higher-tier frequent fliers.



Travel deal Tuesdays

Myth: Tuesdays are the best days to buy airfare.

Reality: Historically, many airlines released fare sales on Tuesdays, which has led to this best day to buy myth, but the Internet jolted this pattern. When you fly is far more important than when you buy. Try flexible-dates shopping to determine when you can get the very best deal and go at mid-day and other off-peak business travel hours.

Calm down, it's just a card!

Myth: Your hotel key card can be used to steal your identity.

Reality: A hotel key card never has your personal information, such as your name, photo, or credit card number, attached to it. Even after you've checked out of the hotel, nobody can use it to pull any personal data. If you lose your hotel key card during your stay, you're simply locked out of your room. The misplaced card is simply deactivated and becomes useless.



Being late to the party pays

Myth: Booking at the last minute gets you the best deals.

Reality: More often than not, travellers will pay a premium if they choose to book an airline ticket at the very last minute. You should try to book your airfare at least 21 days in advance. For hotels, you could get a good deal last minute but it is all about the supply and demand; there is no secret formula. There are some deals to be had by booking a last minute, prepackaged vacation, as long as you are flexible on the actual destination.

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On a sunny day, when the Grand Canal is a sparkling ribbon of aquamarine embossed with boats ancient and modern, Venice can steal your heart. And it can do a number on your wallet, too. Knocking back a Bellini at the Hemingway haunt of Harry's Bar will cost you. And taking a gondola ride? You don't want to know how much. But here are five things to do in La Serenissima — as the serene city is sometimes called — that don't cost a dime, or a pound of flesh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Square

Centrally located, St. Mark's Square — Piazza San Marco — is lined with shops and restaurants and is a must-see. Go early or late to avoid the worst crowds. You can go into the church for free, although there are fees to see the museum and other areas. Completely free: window shopping, people-watching and posing for selfies.

5

Free things in Venice



The Bridges

Venice is brimming with bridges. The Rialto, a stone arch lined with shops that crosses the Grand Canal at about the halfway point, is the most famous. The Academy Bridge — Ponte dell' Accademia — between the Campo di San Vidal and Campo della Carita, also offers great views of the Grand Canal.



The Ghetto

The word ghetto originated in Venice where a gated part of the city was designated as the Jewish quarter from the 16th century until 1797. A commonly cited explanation is that the word stems from an Italian word "getto" associated with an old foundry in the area. A bas relief sculpture by Arbit Blatas in the main square — Campo di Ghetto Nuovo in the Cannaregio district — commemorates the deaths of Venetian Jews killed in the Second World War.



The Basilica

The Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute — St. Mary of Health — was built after an outbreak of the plague in 1630. Its ornate dome is a feature of the city skyline. Works inside include art by Tintoretto and Titian. Located in the Dorsoduro district, across the Grand Canal from St. Mark's; take the No. 1 water bus to the Salute stop. Open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. most days.



The Music Museum

Classical music enthusiasts will enjoy the Museum of Music — Museo della Musica — a collection of instruments from the 17th to 19th centuries. The museum is in the Church of St. Maurizio, about a 15-minute walk from St. Mark's Square, and celebrates Venice's history as a centre of instrument making. Open daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Lose the bread, add chicken but keep all the delicious flavours of a BLT



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No, it's not a sandwich but a delicious salad with all the ingredients except for the bread. I don't often use iceberg lettuce, but it goes so well in this salad.

You can prepare the salad early in the day and dress just before serving.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. Combine the milk and egg

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup panko crumbs or unseasoned dry breadcrumbs
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 8 oz boneless chicken breast

in one bowl. Combine the panko, Parmesan, and salt and pepper in another bowl.

3. Dip the chicken breast in the egg mixture, then the panko mixture.

4. Heat a small skillet until hot. Add the oil and sauté the chicken breast just until browned on both sides, about 2 minutes per side. Place in a 400 F oven and bake for 10 minutes, until the temperature reaches 165 F or until it's no longer pink. Let cool, then slice thinly.

Nutritional information

Per serving

- **Calories.** 220
- **Carbohydrates.** 11.5 g
- **Fibre.** 0.7 g
- **Protein.** 17.3 g
- **Total fat.** 10 g
- **Saturated fat.** 3.5 g
- **Cholesterol.** 78 mg

5. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, cook the prosciutto until crisp (about 5 minutes). Dice and sprinkle over the lettuce wedges and sprinkle with the crumbled feta and tomatoes. Add chicken.

6. Pour the dressing over top.
THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

BLT Salad



This recipe serves six. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Sapphire In a Pear Tree

This drink, inspired by the 12 Days of Christmas, is perfect for holiday parties.

- 1 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire gin
- 1/2 oz Disaronno amaretto
- 2 oz pear nectar
- 3/4 oz fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 oz maple syrup
- 1 rosemary sprig and cranberries for garnish

Starting from bottom of rosemary sprig, remove approximately two thirds of leaves. Crush leaves to release aroma. Add, along with all other ingredients, into cocktail shaker. Add ice and shake well. Strain into highball glass filled with fresh ice. Garnish with rosemary sprig and cranberries.

COURTESY TROY GILCHRIST/ BOMBAY SAPPHIRE



Comfort food for cold days

1. Position a rack toward the bottom of your oven so mac and cheese can bake evenly in the middle. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F) and turn on convection fan if you have one. Lightly oil a large baking dish.

2. Fill your largest pot with lots of hot water and lots of salt and put it over lots of heat. Bring to a boil and cook noodles.

3. While you wait, prepare breadcrumb topping. Fill food processor with bread and choice of herb. Pulse until coarse, even crumbs are formed, just a few seconds. With the food processor running, splash in olive oil, processing just long enough to evenly combine the works. Don't grind crumbs too finely — the coarser the crumbs, the crispier they'll be once baked.

4. Begin sauce by putting bacon in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Splash in enough water to just barely cover it. Stir frequently with a wooden spoon. As the water simmers, the bacon will begin to cook. Then, as the water evaporates, the bacon will render, releasing its fat. Lastly, it will crisp as the flavourful bacon fat heats past the boiling point of water into the flavour



This recipe serves four to six. THE CANADIAN PRESS

zone. Adjust heat as needed, keeping bacon sizzling but not smoking and burning. Stir until the bacon is evenly cooked and crisp. Using a slotted spoon, transfer bacon bits to paper towels, leaving the fat behind for building the sauce.

5. Add onions and garlic to hot bacon fat; sauté as textures soften and flavours brighten, 5 minutes or so. Evenly sprinkle flour over onions, then stir it in well. The bacon fat will absorb

the flour and create a thick paste. Continue cooking, getting rid of the raw flour taste, just a minute or two. Whisking constantly, pour in milk and cream, then gently stir as sauce thickens, about 10 minutes.

6. When noodles are al dente, drain and return to pot. To finish sauce, smoothly stir in mustard, paprika, hot sauce and salt, then mix in cheese and bacon bits. Pour sauce over hot, steamy noodles and stir mix-

ture together.

7. Pour into prepared baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with seasoned breadcrumbs. Transfer to oven, reduce temperature to 180 C (350 F) and bake until lightly golden brown and bubbly, about 30 minutes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/BACK TO BASICS: 100 SIMPLE CLASSIC RECIPES WITH A TWIST BY MICHAEL SMITH (PENGUIN).**

Ingredients

- Breadcrumb Topping**
 - 1/2 loaf Italian bread, torn or cut into chunks
 - 15 ml (1 tbsp) of your favourite dried herb such as thyme
 - Few splashes of olive oil
- Mac and Cheese**
 - 500 g (1 lb) penne
 - 12 slices of bacon, chopped
 - 2 onions, diced
 - 4 garlic cloves, minced
 - 150 ml (2/3 cup) all-purpose flour
 - 1 l (4 cups) milk
 - 250 ml (1 cup) whipping cream
 - 30 ml (2 tbsp) Dijon mustard
 - 15 ml (1 tbsp) paprika
 - 5 or 10 ml (1 or 2 tsp) hot sauce
 - 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
 - 500 g (1 lb) aged cheddar cheese, shredded

Appetizer. Retro Ham Salad Sandwiches



These sandwiches make a great addition to a sandwich tray for an old-fashioned tea party.

1. In bowl, stir ham, cheese, pickles, mayonnaise, green onions, capers and mustard.

2. Lay three slices of bread flat on work surface. Using rolling pin, slightly flatten one slice. Divide ham salad among the three slices, including the flattened one. Using back of spoon, spread ham mixture evenly over slices. Top each un-flattened slice with another slice of bread and cut into small squares to make little sandwiches. Starting at short end, roll flattened slice of bread up into a coil and slice crosswise to make pinwheel sandwiches. Ar-

range pinwheel and little sandwiches on a platter.

COURTESY PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Ingredients

- 6 oz (175 g) Black Forest ham, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) PC World of Flavours Canadian Triple Cheddar Shredded Cheese Blend
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped dill pickles
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) minced green onions
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped drained capers
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 pkg (250 g) PC Tramezzini White Crustless Bread

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Networking's network.

Another acquaintance has added you on LinkedIn, but you're still not sure what the whole site is about. Here's a crash course on this computer-based career consultant

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LinkedIn is a great tool for researching prospective careers, building your network and reaching out and connecting with people

This should be an entirely professional social media tool, so keep your personal life out of it — it should function as an online resumé and professional networking tool.

It takes some time and effort to create a great LinkedIn account, but if you do it right, it will certainly help you in connecting with the right people and getting a job.

Here are some tips on how to set up an effective LinkedIn profile:

Getting started

Get a professional headshot done. You want to be dressed in business attire and looking sharp. This is about cre-



Commit to regularly updating and improving your LinkedIn profile: this way you won't neglect it. ISTOCK

ating a positive and professional image — think about what message your photo sends about you and whether it fits with your career goals.

Take time to write a clear, concise and compelling sum-

mary statement. Tailor it to what your target audience will be interested in knowing about you. Be sure to include key words, industry-specific lingo and job-specific skills so that it is easily searchable.

Create an effective and informative professional headline.

This helps people to understand, in just a few words, who you are and what your skills are.

Filling it in

Join groups that relate to your career interests and industries. Being involved in groups can help you to con-

nect with people that you might not otherwise interact with.

Add industry relevant skills to your profile. Once you have added these skills, start endorsing others for the skills that they possess. This will, in turn, result in others endorsing you.

Fine-tuning

- Customize your profile URL — go to your profile, click on Edit, click on Manage Public Profile Settings, on the right hand side of that page, click on Customize your public profile URL. This allows you to create a shorter URL that looks better and more professional on contact cards and resumes.
- Carefully proofread your entire profile. Then, have at least one or two other people look over your profile; ask them to give you feedback on whether it is clear and accurate.

Similar to endorsements, the process of getting recommendations is founded in reciprocity.

If you want others to write a recommendation for you, first write a recommendation for them. Take time to write serious and thoughtful recommendations, as they are also a reflection of you.

When you write a recommendation for someone else, they are then prompted to return the favour and write one for you.

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CONSUMERS COVET CARDS

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the Retail Gift Card Association (RGCA) recently released the results of the Holiday Gift Card Trend Tracker Survey, which examines how consumers plan to give and receive gift cards from retail locations this holiday season. The results, based on responses from nearly 3,000 consumers, reveal ways that retailers can best capitalize on consumer's continued satisfaction with the products.

According to the survey, 74 per cent of respondents plan to give one or more gift cards this holiday season, and nearly 30 per cent surveyed noted they planned on giving five or more gift cards.

Overall, the number of gift cards consumers plan to purchase as gifts this year increased by 71 per cent, according to survey results.

"There is no longer a question that retail gift cards are the most coveted gift to give and get during the holidays, but consumers are being more deliberate about which cards they purchase, with 73 per cent spending less on holiday spending than they did last year," says Jennifer

Tramontana, spokesperson for the Retail Gift Card Association. "This survey shows ways that retailers can compete for savvy consumer dollars by adding holiday promotions and offering online and mobile gift card options such as e-gift codes."

Additional insights from the survey include:

- Gift cards drive store traffic — 78 per cent of consumers plan to spend their cards at the retailer's brick and mortar location.
- Restaurants and department stores will benefit most from gift card promotion this holiday — consumers are most likely to give cards from these types of retailers (57 per cent plan on giving a restaurant gift card this year), and they most want to receive cards from these businesses as well (60 per cent hope for a department store gift card).
- Convenience and practicality drive the decision to give gift cards — 79 per cent of consumers give gift cards because they know the recipient can purchase what they want, and 70 per cent give them for convenience.

- Consumers are embracing more online and mobile options — 56 per cent planned to stay home and shop on Cyber Monday, and 83 per cent like the option to send physical gift cards or e-codes.
- Promotions drive gift cards sales — 17 per cent of consumers wait for a promotion before buying a gift card, and 23 per cent almost always look for promotions at competing retailers before deciding where to buy a gift card.

— Metro News Services



THE PERFECT GIFT THAT CLICKS THE CAMERA STORE

Whether you are shopping for the professional photographer or videographer in your life, or for those just picking up a new hobby, the staff at The Camera Store has the knowledge and experience to help you find the perfect gift that just clicks.

"We are the best photography equipment destination in Calgary," says Evelyn Drake, administrative manager at the Camera Store. "We are not like an ordinary store, we are a photography community."

Focused on encouraging the spirit of photography in Calgary, The Camera Store offers a wide range of products from cameras, video gear, studio equipment, accessories and everything in between.

The store even has one of the best selections of photography books in the country, with many limited or collector editions.

For any photographer, no matter what their skill level, the learning never ends.

"We basically have a seminar or event on every type of photography and for every level of photographer," Drake says.

Sign your favourite photographer up for one of the many photography events or



CONTRIBUTED

workshops, or buy a gift card that can be applied to any class.

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The Bruins' Reilly Smith, right, scores the game-winning goal past Flames goalie Reto Berra at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Tuesday night. The Bruins won 2-1. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bruins come roaring back to beat Flames

Turning the tables.

Boston scores its only goals late in the game to earn 2 points

Reilly Smith scored the game-winning goal at 15:27 of the third period as the Boston Bruins rallied to beat the Calgary Flames 2-1 on Tuesday.

Skating down the left wing, Smith cut around Calgary defenceman T.J. Brodie and roofed a shot into the top corner over the outstretched

On Tuesday

2

Bruins

1

Flames

glove of goalie Reto Berra.

The Flames held a 1-0 lead heading into the third period, but saw that evaporate as David Krejci scored a power-play goal to even the score before Smith's game-winning

heroics.

The Bruins (21-8-2) have now won three straight games. After skating to a 3-2 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins at home on Saturday, the Bruins started their four-game road trip in Toronto on Sunday with a 5-2 victory over the Maple Leafs.

Jiri Hudler scored the lone goal for the Flames (11-15-4), who had won three of four heading into the contest.

Hudler also scored the game-winning goal in overtime on Saturday as the Flames beat the Oilers 2-1 in Edmon-

ton. Calgary's leading scorer extended his point scoring streak to four straight games during which time he has two goals and three assists.

Boston goalie Tuukka Rask finished with 26 saves to improve his record to 16-7-2. Berra meanwhile stopped 22 shots.

In his return to the Scotiabank Saddledome, Jarome Iginla registered four shots on net.

The Flames traded him last March 27 to the Pittsburgh Penguins for a first-round draft pick and a pair of college forwards. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Board of governors

NHL listening to expansion hopefuls

Gary Bettman has always been careful not to get hopes up in cities that want an NHL franchise.

That continued Tuesday when the commissioner reiterated the league has no official expansion plans in the offing. It won't happen for the next two seasons but that hasn't stopped the calls from pouring in.

"We're getting lots of expressions of interest, and no decisions have been made to do anything other than listen," Bettman said after the league's board of governors meeting wrapped up. "We haven't embarked on a formal expansion process, but when people want to talk to us, we listen." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHL

Blues catch Jets on the ricochet

Kevin Shattenkirk slammed a power-play goal through traffic Tuesday that was deflected into the Winnipeg Jets net to give the St. Louis Blues a 2-1 win.

Bryan Little scored for the Jets (14-14-4), who started a little slow but more than held their own in the first period, outshooting the Blues (20-6-3) by an 8-2 margin.

Four of those came during the Jets' one power play late in the period. Winnipeg may have the worst power play in the league, but great saves by Brian Elliott kept the puck out of the St. Louis net.

Alex Steen turned things around in the second with the Blues' first goal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NCAA basketball

Gators withstand Wiggins' best

Scottie Wilbekin scored a career-high 18 points, Dorian Finney-Smith added 15 and No. 19 Florida held on to beat No. 13 Kansas 67-61 Tuesday night. Freshman Andrew Wiggins of Vaughan, Ont., led the Jayhawks (6-3) with 26 points and 11 rebounds — both career highs. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

IOC recognition

Football inches toward Olympics

Football took a tiny step closer to potential inclusion in the Olympics on Tuesday.

The IOC's executive board granted provisional recognition to the International Federation of American Football. A vote on approving football for the Summer Games could take place in 2017. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Figure skating

Olympic men's champ out for Sochi

Evan Lysacek will not defend his Olympic figure-skating title in Sochi because of a torn labrum in his left hip. After two months of aggressive treatment, doctors told Lysacek last week the injury was not going to improve and he was risking permanent damage if he kept training. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

UFC. St-Pierre to announce plans for future on Friday

Georges St-Pierre will shed light on his future later this week in Quebec City.

There has been a question mark hanging over the UFC welterweight champion since his win over No. 1 contender Johny Hendricks last month at UFC 167. St-Pierre said after the fight that he needed time away from his sport.

It appears the 32-year-old



Georges St-Pierre
GETTY IMAGES

from Montreal has made up his mind.

St-Pierre, currently on vacation in Dubai, confirmed by text to The Canadian Press that he will be an-

nouncing his future Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brendan Shanahan. Board of governors give VP of player safety thumbs-up

The NHL's board of governors thinks Brendan Shanahan is doing a bang-up job of enforcing player safety.

That was the sense commissioner Gary Bettman got from the room on the second and final day of meetings that included updates on player safety, the upcoming Sochi Olympics, hockey operations and the ongoing relationship with the Players' Association.

In light of Saturday night's game between the Boston Bruins and Pittsburgh Penguins, discipline and on-ice

Doing the time

18

The number of suspensions that have cost players at least one regular-season game this year.

conduct are in the public spotlight. It was just one part of the meeting but general managers expressed satisfaction over the state of discipline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

12% increase

NHL salary cap to rise to \$71M

NHL revenues have increased so much that next year's salary cap is expected to be roughly \$71 million US, close to a 12 per cent increase from this season (\$64.3 million).

That's an estimate, but it's

the figure commissioner Gary Bettman delivered to the board of governors Monday.

The cap floor this season is \$44 million, and it's expected to be about \$52 or \$53 million next year. According to CapGeek, the only team with a cap number of less than \$52 million is the Florida Panthers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sochi Olympics

Russia plans to set up designated protest zones

IOC president Thomas Bach said Russia will set up public protest zones in Sochi during the Winter Olympics, a move unlikely to defuse criticism of the country's human-rights record and a recent law banning gay "propaganda."

With the opening ceremony less than two months away, Bach said Sochi organizers notified him of the decision during their report to the International Olympic Committee executive board on Tuesday.

Bach, chairing his first board meeting since being elected president in September, said the Russians would establish specially designated zones for "people who want to express their opinion or want to demonstrate for or against something."

Bach said he didn't have any details on where the protest zones would be located or how they would be managed during the games, which run from Feb. 7-23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Rangers officially acquire ex-Jays catcher

Catcher J.P. Arenecibia and the Texas Rangers have finalized a \$1.8-million, one-year contract.

Arenecibia hit .194 with 21 homers, 18 doubles and 55 RBIs in a career-high 138 games this year for Toronto. The Blue Jays didn't offer him a contract by the Dec. 2 deadline and allowed him to become a free agent.

Arenecibia has a .212 career average with 64 homers and 193 RBIs in four big-league seasons. He turns 28 next month and figures to be a backup to Geovany Soto.

The agreement was announced Tuesday.

Arenecibia is fourth among catchers in home runs over the past three seasons with 62.



Catcher J.P. Arenecibia signed with the Rangers on Tuesday.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Two of Arenecibia's seven multi-homer games have come in Arlington. The other five were in Toronto. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other transactions on Tuesday

- A three-team trade was made involving the Arizona Diamondbacks, Los Angeles Angels and Chicago White Sox. Outfielder-first baseman Mark Trumbo will go from L.A. to Arizona, pitcher Hector Santiago moves from Chicago to L.A., outfielder Adam Eaton leaves

Arizona for Chicago, and left-hander Tyler Skaggs goes from Arizona to L.A.

- The Oakland Athletics dealt left-hander Brett Anderson to the Colorado Rockies for lefty Drew Pomeranz and minor-league pitcher Chris Jensen.

Leafs captain's hit from behind draws suspension



Maple Leafs defenceman Dion Phaneuf faces a two-game suspension for a hit on the Bruins' Kevan Miller on Sunday night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

2-game ban. Buds to go without Phaneuf after he boarded Bruin

Maple Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf has been suspended two games for his hit from behind on Kevan Miller of the Bruins.

Phaneuf boarded Miller, who clearly had his back turned, during Toronto's loss to Boston on Sunday night at Air Canada Centre. No boarding penalty was called on the play.

In announcing the suspension, NHL vice-president of player safety Brendan Shanahan said that Miller should never have been eligible to be hit like he was.

"At no point during his approach does Phaneuf see anything but Miller's numbers, so the onus is on him to either avoid the hit completely or at the very least minimize it more than he does," Shanahan said.

Leafs face 4th suspension

The suspension is the Leafs' fourth during the regular season. David Clarkson got an automatic 10 games for leaving the bench to join an altercation during the pre-season, Nazem Kadri got three games for elbowing Wild goaltender Niklas Backstrom in the head last month, and Carter Ashton was suspended two games for boarding Flames forward Derek Smith.

Miller left the game, but Claude Julien told reporters that he wasn't worried about the defenceman's condition. That factored into the two-game suspension, as did the fact that Phaneuf has no previous history of discipline in nine NHL seasons.

He'll forfeit \$66,666.66 in salary as a result of the suspension. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	30	20	8	2	84	61	42
Montreal	32	19	10	3	85	71	41
Detroit	32	15	9	8	87	85	38
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Toronto	31	16	12	3	86	87	35
Ottawa	32	12	14	6	92	105	30
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	31	7	22	2	53	92	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	31	13	13	5	71	86	31
NY Rangers	32	15	16	1	70	84	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
Philadelphia	30	13	14	3	68	78	29
Columbus	31	13	15	3	78	86	29
NY Islanders	31	8	18	5	77	109	21

Tuesday's results

Los Angeles 6 Montreal 0
Washington 6 Tampa Bay 5 (SO)
Buffalo 2 Ottawa 1 (SO)
Columbus 5 New Jersey 4
Nashville 4 NY Rangers 1
Florida 3 Detroit 2 (SO)
St. Louis 2 Winnipeg 1
Chicago 6 Dallas 2
Phoenix 3 Colorado 1
Boston at Calgary
Carolina at Edmonton
NY Islanders at San Jose
Monday's results
Ottawa 5 Philadelphia 4 (SO)
Pittsburgh 2 Columbus 1
Anaheim 5 NY Islanders 2
Vancouver 2 Carolina 0

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Getzlaf, Ana	16	21	37
Kane, Chi	16	21	37
Perry, Ana	20	15	35
Tavares, NYI	12	22	34
Steen, STL	20	12	32
Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Ovechkin, Wash	22	9	31

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	33	22	6	5	122	91	49
St. Louis	29	20	6	3	100	67	43
Minnesota	32	18	9	5	77	75	41
Colorado	29	20	9	0	83	68	40
Dallas	29	14	10	5	83	86	33
Winnipeg	32	14	14	4	83	90	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	33	21	7	5	106	86	47
Los Angeles	31	20	7	4	85	62	44
San Jose	30	19	6	5	101	75	43
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	29	11	14	4	78	98	26
Edmonton	31	10	18	3	84	105	23

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Los Angeles at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games
Montreal at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Columbus at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Calgary, 9 p.m.
NY Islanders at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Boston at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Kessel, Tor	16	13	29
Couture, SJ	10	19	29
Karlsson, Ott	8	21	29
H. Sedin, Vcr	8	21	29
Ryan, Ott	14	14	28
Marleau, SJ	13	15	28
D. Sedin, Vcr	10	18	28
Seguin, Dal	15	12	27

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	13	.435	9 1/2
Charlotte	10	11	.476	8 1/2
Detroit	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Chicago	8	11	.421	9 1/2
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10 1/2
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11 1/2
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	12
Orlando	6	15	.286	12 1/2
New York	5	15	.250	13
Milwaukee	5	16	.238	13 1/2

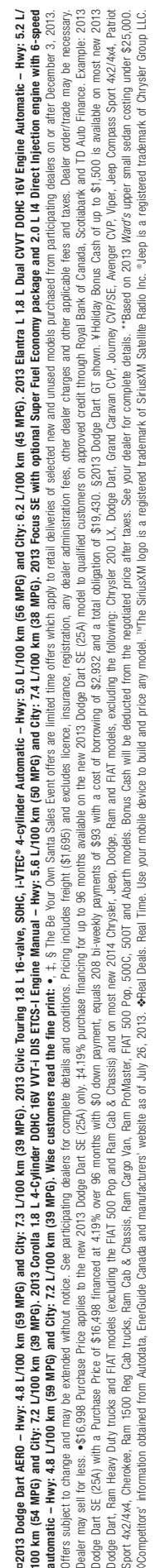
WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	16	4	.800	1
d-San Antonio	16	4	.800	1
d-L.A. Clippers	14	8	.636	4
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4 1/2
Dallas	13	9	.591	5
Phoenix	11	9	.550	6
Golden State	12	10	.545	6
Memphis	10	10	.500	7
L.A. Lakers	10	10	.500	7
Minnesota	10	11	.476	7 1/2
New Orleans	9	10	.474	7 1/2
Sacramento	6	13	.316	10 1/2
Utah	4	19	.174	14 1/2

d — division leader

Tuesday's results

San Antonio 116 Toronto 103
Cleveland 109 New York 94
Indiana 90 Miami 84
Minnesota 121 Detroit 94
Oklahoma City 101 Atlanta 92
Brooklyn 104 Boston 96
Milwaukee 78 Chicago 74
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.



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TOTAL PASSENGER ROOM (L)	2752.4	2678.0	2707.0	2568.0	2568.0
4-WHEEL DISC BRAKES	STD	AVAIL	STD	N/A	AVAIL
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PROJECTOR HEADLAMPS	STD	N/A	N/A	N/A	AVAIL

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AJAC's historical missteps?

Former winners. Let's go back in time and see the good and the not-so-good victors

The trouble with car-of-the-year awards is that they recognize fetching lines, nifty engineering and value for money, but fail to take into account the one factor shoppers say is paramount to their decision: reliability.

As AJAC names its finalists for the 2014 Canadian car and utility vehicle of the year, we thought it would be instructive to look back at previous winners, in five-year increments, to see how they fared in the real world. Do our esteemed jurists end up picking the best vehicles for hard-working Canadians? You be the judge.

2010: VW Golf GTI

Volkswagen bookends our retrospective with two disparate generations of the worldly, front-drive Golf. The sixth-gen Golf, introduced in 2010, was a masterful reworking of the Mk5 car that landed here in 2006. The body was finessed with an angle grinder to make it more aerodynamic, while the cabin furnishings were raised to near-Audi standards. The GTI inherited Golf's three- and five-door hatch configurations, but with some tuned suspension bits and wicked alloy wheels shod with low-profile rubber. Owners of pre-2010 GTIs did report several minor problems, but VW must have ironed out the bugs; the newest generation appears problem free.

2005: Ford Mustang

To mark the 40th anniversary of Lee Iacocca's groundbreaking Mustang, Ford put stylist J Mays on the job to cast the



THE 2010 VW GOLF GTI, ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



The 2005 Ford Mustang had looks and power but also some faults.

new coupe and convertible as "retro-future" iterations of the original. By adopting the rear-drive chassis of the Lincoln LS — but with a solid rear axle to keep costs down — the car gained a stiff platform to promote adept handling. Assembled at the Ford-Mazda plant in Michigan, the Mustang benefited from Japanese-quality controls. Still, there were some unsettling problems revealed by owners, including faulty manual transmissions

and rear differentials, fueling issues, faulty emergency brakes, short-lived batteries, bad V8 throttle-position sensors and interior rattles.

2000: Ford Focus

With its avant-garde styling and premium materials, the Ford Focus aspired to be more than just an econobox. And it came in lots of flavours: a four-door sedan, five-door wagon, three-door hatchback and, later, a five-door hatch.

The process of election

- AJAC finalists and runners up. Mazda, Kia and General Motors lead the way in the battle to be named Canada's 2014 car or truck of the year. The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada announced its 12 finalists for the awards last week, including three Mazda vehicles, and two each from Kia and GM. In October, a group of 80 AJAC journalists test drove 174 new vehicles during a week-long series of trials in Niagara Falls. AJAC's annual Test Fest evaluates all new or redesigned vehicles in each of 12 categories on the same day, over the same route, including a high-speed test circuit and/or a simulated off-road course or cottage road, depending on the type of vehicle. The journalists ranked a wide range of attributes, including design, space, quality, performance, safety, economy and value. Transport Canada fuel consumption figures were also factored in, as was the vehicles' price. Those 12 finalists will now compete to be named AJAC's Car of the Year or Utility Vehicle of the Year, which will be announced on Feb. 13.

This year's 12 finalists

- Small Car (under \$21k): Mazda 3
- Small Car (over \$21k): Mazda 3 Sport
- Family Car (under \$30k): Kia Soul
- Family Car (over \$30k): Mazda 6
- Luxury Car (under \$50k): Lexus IS 350 RWD
- Luxury Car (over \$50k): Infiniti Q50 Hybrid
- Sports/Performance (\$50k+): Chevrolet Corvette Stingray
- Prestige Car (over \$75k): Mercedes-Benz S Class
- SUV/CUV (under \$35k): Jeep Cherokee
- SUV/CUV (\$35k to \$60k): Kia Sorento
- SUV/CUV (\$60k+): Acura MDX
- Pickup: GMC Sierra

Every model was a ball to drive, thanks to its tight platform and sophisticated suspension geometry. The

Focus got off to a rocky start in terms of reliability. Owners' mailboxes filled up with recall notices, and the cars exhibited mechanical glitches such as fast-wearing brakes, wheel-bearing failures, broken transmissions and ignition switches, faulty air conditioners, bad fuel pumps and numerous electrical problems.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

5 DRIVE

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allnewmazda3.ca

GT model with Technology Package shown.



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A moving date heals your automotive heart

Autoknow. Imagine a dating site ... where people who need their cars moved meet people who can move them (cue the violins)

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

James Newman, Sr., needs a ride. Well, actually, his 2010 Ford Escape needs a ride.

Newman, a retired high school teacher, plans to spend the holidays and winter months at his son's home in Phoenix, Ariz., and he needs transportation while he is staying there.

But at 77 years of age, Newman is not up to driving the 3,800 kilometres from Syracuse, N.Y. And on a limited budget, he's not interested in spending about \$1,600 US to have his wagon professionally hauled cross-country. Renting a car for three months is also not a financial option.

Facing an unusual vehicle-relocation situation, Newman turned to a transportation solution that he unexpectedly found while surfing the Internet for quotes to have his Escape delivered to him in Arizona; an "auto driveaway" service.

"I didn't know anything about (auto driveaways) until I started researching what it would cost to get my SUV to Arizona," Newman said. "With the cost and convenience, this was the best option. Really, it was the only option for me."

An auto driveaway service essentially works as a barter system that matches people in need of vehicle relocation — but are neither able nor willing to make the drive or pay the high cost of hauling — with a driver in need of a cheap trip to the same city or general location.

The connections between vehicle owner and driver are typically made through a basic "auto driveaway" search on craigslist.org, autotempest.com, searchtempest.com or a similar service-driven website.

Vehicle owners use these websites to post their relocation needs, while potential drivers list their destination wishes. When a location match is made, the parties then work out the specifics of the trip via email.

Newman decided on autotempest.com for his driver search, and he quickly found his candidates: two Columbia University students wanting



You're taking a chance driving an old car, anyway, so putting it in the hands of a total stranger is likely just making things worse. Still, there might be an experienced driver online willing to take on the challenge.



When you dial out the expense of a car hauler (truck) and a paid driver, your costs come down to fuel, a willingness to let the odometer pile up, vehicle wear and tear ... and trusting a total stranger with your wheels.

Quoted

"I didn't know anything about (auto driveaways) until I started researching what it would cost to get my SUV to Arizona. With the cost and convenience, this was the best option. Really, it was the only option for me."

Retired school teacher James Newman Sr.

to get to Mesa, Ariz., for holiday semester break. Newman gave them the work, granted the young men four days to make the trip, and agreed to reimburse all fuel costs when his vehicle arrives in Arizona.

Not bad for the price of a few tanks of gasoline, and for their time and effort, the two college students get free transportation back home for the holidays, though they'll have to find their own way back to New York when classes resume in January.

"There's some risk involved," Newman said of this unconventional relocation option. "But I'm confident there won't be any problems."

Through cash deposits from the drivers, background checks, GPS tracking and common sense, some safeguards can be built in before handing over the keys to somebody you've only met via email. But trusting a total stranger to drive your vehicle for three or four days and deliver it a few thousand kilometres away naturally carries a level of worry and risk.

And that's where companies such as Professional Driv-



It's tougher finding drivers traveling to rural areas, but you could have your car driven to a major center and then trucked to your location, wherever that is. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

ers Incorporated, Custom Auto Delivery and Auto Driveaway are often hired to help steady the nerves of relocation, and still keep costs down.

David Smaller, owner-operator of Canada Driveaway, said his business helps match vehicle owners and relocation drivers, most commonly during the winter months when retirees want to fly out of Canada and into warmer climates in the United States, but need

to have their cars shipped.

"The owners are our clients and the drivers know they can get a free road trip holiday," Smaller said. "So they plan their trip according to the seasonality."

Smaller's business works out every trip detail from arrival time to travel duration and the vehicle owner pays the fees associated with the service, the fuel and the compensation of the driver, which

is typically not more than \$500, Smaller said.

"This is kind of a niche market but there is steady demand for the service this time of year ... It's enough to keep us busy but not enough for us to get rich."

Jill Pixley writes a travel blog for the popular freelance website examiner.com and she said the Internet is helping to drive the growing popularity of the auto driveaway service.

Pixley reported that through this barter method of vehicle relocation, the company Auto Driveaway alone provided transportation for about 10,000 travelers in more than 8,000 vehicles just last year.

For the sake of research for a blog story on an auto driveaway, Pixley volunteered to drive a Toyota Camry from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles. The only eligibility requirements for the job were an online application through Auto Driveaway, a valid operator's license, a clean driving record and a \$350 deposit to be refunded upon vehicle delivery.

"The advantage was that I got to roll through 10 states on someone else's dime," wrote Pixley, who agreed to pay for her own fuel on the trip. "I also had the freedom to leave the huge interstates behind and follow my own route along secondary roads and highways."

Pixley explained that an auto driveaway service is a great relocation option for those wanting to avoid hauling costs. But logistical problems can be difficult to overcome, especially in smaller cities and towns where matching an available driver at Point A with a desire to travel to a very specific Point B can take some negotiation.

But at least for Mr. Newman, using an auto driveaway to move his vehicle cross-country for only the price of fuel easily outweighed any potential inconvenience or obvious risks.

"I suppose there is some worry involved, nothing is guaranteed," he said. "But if you do your research and take the time to find the right drivers, this seems like a great way to go. I hope it is, anyway."

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WHEELBASE MEDIA

No more 'rim' shots

Scuffing your expensive alloy wheels — commonly referred to as “curb rash” — can ruin the looks of your otherwise pristine vehicle. One way to protect yourself from such occurrences is to install a set of Rimskins. When fitted along the wheel's outer lip (they're adhesive backed), Rimskins offers a significant measure of curb-rash protection, and if one should become too damaged to continue service you just put another one on. (They'll also cover up old damage). A single-wheel Rimskins kit available in silver, red, black, white or blue sells for \$25 US and are good for wheels up to 20-inches in diameter. Or you can order a five-pack of Rimskins in the colours of your choice for \$100. For information and ordering go to rimskins.com.



Fast food dishes

For fueling up your kids, The Busted Knuckle Garage has a few interesting items. The specialty auto-accessories company has come up with a children's five-piece tableware set that's made of “unbreakable” Melamine. Displaying the appropriate Busted Knuckle racing designs, each kit comes with a three-section 20-centimetre dinner plate, 12-centimetre bowl, six-ounce cup plus a fork and a spoon. The entire serving set is packaged in an attractive gift box. The best part is the Busted Knuckle folks have reduced the price for each set to \$16 US from \$20. Pick them up at bustedknucklegarage.com



Belt yourself up

We all now that seatbelts save lives, but did you know that a seatbelt belt from Buckle-Down could possibly save you from the embarrassment of inadvertently dropping your drawers? You can choose from a variety of authentic-looking, one-size-fits-all belts for 24 to 38-inch waists and their 3.8-centimetre (1.5-inch) width will fit most pant loops. You can select from various officially licensed brands such as Chevrolet (including Corvette), Pontiac, Cadillac, Ford (Mustang and Ford truck), Chrysler, Dodge (Ram and Viper), to name a few. And if

you're worried about accessorizing, there are 20 different colours to choose from. Prices start at \$23 US. Make your selection(s) at belts-direct.com.



An off-the-cuff gift

Even gearheads will doff their jeans and T-shirts and get dressed up once in a while. If you're one of 'em, why not add a pair of silver speedometer-and-fuel-gauge cufflinks from Cuff-Daddy to your wardrobe. Each set features a racing-inspired and authentic-looking 16-millimetre diameter (0.625-inch) speedometer and a fuel gauge. They also have an acrylic coating for lasting protection and are covered by Cuff-Daddy's lifetime warranty. The \$30 US price (including shipping within the United States) includes a hard-sided presentation box. To order, go to cuffdaddy.com (type the keyword speedometer into the search window).



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Nissan asks the ancient, baffling question: What do women want?

Pathfinder. Automotive giant's employees changed their research methods by immersing themselves in the lives of everyday ladies

JILL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Back in 1955, Dodge introduced a new model called the La Femme. Aimed at women, it was painted in pastel colours, and included a matching raincoat and umbrella.

It failed, proving that it takes more than just a few "feminine touches" to appeal to female buyers. But while automakers generally know what won't work, it's an on-

Extra facts

- **10 per cent.** In its research, Nissan found that only 10 per cent of women would consider buying a pink car.

- **Tempting technology.** Many automakers are using infotainment systems that integrate the driver's smartphone and its apps, for ease of use and familiarity.

going challenge to determine what does.

"I think women are misunderstood, and it's because the industry assumes they're disinterested in cars, and find them boring and one-dimensional," says Rachel Nguyen, director of exploratory and advanced product

planning for Nissan's head office in Los Angeles. "Instead, they see it in their lives, and if they will enjoy being in it.

"When women walk into a dealership, they don't say, 'Wow, look at that new grille, it's so great compared to the last generation.' They look at the whole thing, and it's more than just the product."

A lot of people are involved in the process. Nguyen works with teams of designers, engineers and planners to identify major trends and customer needs, and also with consumers.

While discussion groups are important, the company also uses immersion research that can include going into people's homes. "We're looking for insights," she says. "It's not typical market research. Immersing in these women's lives is where we gain our insight and



Nissan used input from female drivers to help them build the new Pathfinder. JILL MCINTOSH

tells us what we need to do."

This research has led Nissan to incorporate such things as lighting and materials to improve the vehicle cabin's appearance, along with practicality. On three-row SUVs, the second-row seat slides forward in such a way that if it has a car seat on it, it's still easy to get into the third row. "We said, let's finally get it right where I don't have to move my kid out

of the car seat to get my other kid into the back seat," Nguyen says. "We put our foot down, and put a push on engineering for that."

Women also want technology as much as men do, but it needs to be intuitive and easy to use. The company is continually working on designs that take the enormous amount of information available, and present it in formats that are

accessible, affordable, and also minimize distraction.

Nguyen actually studied the La Femme's history, which led her to realize that while men and women can have differences in taste, a functional, well-designed vehicle works for everyone. "It's the kiss of death to say that you're designing for women," she says. "If you meet their needs, you will capture the needs of everyone."

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*Limited time lease offers based on new 2014 Honda models. Lease examples based on a new 2014 CR-V LX 2WD, model RM3H3EES/2014 CR-V SE 2WD, model RM3H3EES/2014 Odyssey LX, model RL5H2EE/2014 Odyssey SE, model RL5H3EE, available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £2.99%/2.99%/3.99% lease APR for 60/60/60 months. Bi-weekly payment, including freight and PDI, is \$148.00/\$153.00/\$183.00/\$194.00. Down payment of \$0/\$0/\$0/\$0, environmental fees, \$0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$19,240/\$19,890/\$23,790/\$25,220. Taxes, license, insurance, environmental fees and registration are extra. 120,000/120,000/120,000/120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of \$0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. †MSRP is \$27,630/\$28,629/\$31,630/\$33,630 for a new 2014 CR-V LX 2WD, model RM3H3EES/2014 CR-V SE 2WD, model RM3H3EES/2014 Odyssey LX, model RL5H2EE/2014 Odyssey SE, model RL5H3EE, and includes \$1,640/\$1,640/\$1,640/\$1,640 freight and PDI. Taxes, license, insurance, environmental fees and registration are extra. Retailer may sell or lease for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. #1/2/3 Prices and/or payments shown do not include a PPSA lien registration fee of \$10.76 and lien registering agent's fee of \$5.25, which are both due at time of delivery. Offers valid from December 1, 2013 through January 2, 2014 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for Alberta residents at Honda Dealers of Alberta locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit HondaAlbarta.ca or see your Honda retailer for full details.

Trying to decide on that new lease on life?

Q&A. Take the test to see if renting long term fits you?

There are many factors to consider when deciding if leasing a vehicle is the best option. You'll need to consider your lifestyle, driving habits and financial circumstances before making any decisions.

For some initial insights, Chevrolet Canada gives us the right questions to ask alongside some valuable information:

What are the financial benefits of leasing?

Only the depreciation value of the vehicle is used to calculate monthly payments in comparison to the full price of the vehicle used in loan repayment calculations. In addition, lease holders only pay taxes on their monthly payments and tax benefits are offered to self-employed, salespeople and some professionals.



Leasers will often get a better car than those who finance. NEWS CANADA

How long do you intend to keep your vehicle?

Lease terms are shorter

than most financing terms. Lease holders get to drive a new vehicle more often

with lease periods typically ranging from 36 to 48 months. At the end of

your lease period, you have the options to purchase the vehicle from your dealer at

a reduced rate or upgrade to a newer model under a different contract.

What kind of vehicle would you like to drive?

Monthly payments for lease holders are typically lower than those who finance. This means that drivers have the option of choosing a more luxurious vehicle for a lower monthly payment.

What is the length of my commuting time?

There will typically be a kilometre limit during the period of the lease contract. Potential lease holders should take an honest look at their driving habits and consider if the limit is realistic given their driving habits to avoid additional charges based on kilometres in excess of the limit.

Is maintenance included?

You should always speak with your local dealer about maintenance before signing your contract.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you have not made as much progress as you would have liked on a project, don't worry and certainly don't work even harder. Maybe in future you should set yourself targets you know you will be able to reach.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you need to get something finished, step on the gas. Mars in the work area of your chart will boost your energy but you won't get anywhere worth going unless you're motivated.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

If someone asks for your opinion on a personal matter, you will be happy to give it. However, if your sixth sense tells you they won't be happy hearing the truth, maybe you should decline their request.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Feuds and power struggles are best avoided, even if it means you have to go off and be by yourself for a while. Do not, under any circumstances, make the mistake of taking sides.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You need to get your financial house in order — quickly. Be ruthless with yourself and make sure you know the difference between your needs and your desires. If something is not a necessity, live without it.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Your authority on the work front has slipped a bit and you need to find ways to remind people why they should do what you tell them. Be persuasive but don't be rude.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

According to the planets this is a good day for personal issues, especially partnerships. In affairs of the heart, you can hardly put a foot wrong at the moment — and a little of what you enjoy will do you good.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You may not be able to rely on certain people as much as you have done recently, but you no longer need them. There is a major luck factor working in your life at the moment.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Make the most of the Sun in your sign to show the world what you are capable of. It's never too late to make an impression or to move up in the world but now it will be easier than other times.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may not have made as much progress at work as your talents deserve. But, with Mars moving through the career area of your chart, it won't be long before that changes.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Today, make an effort to read between the lines. What is not being said is likely to be ten times more important than what is being said. Also, watch other people's body language.

♓ Pisces

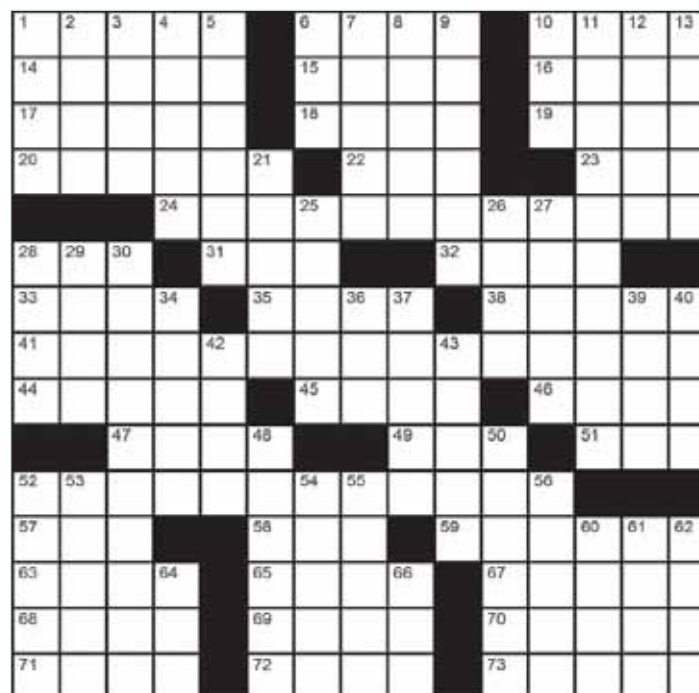
Feb. 20 - March 20

Be decisive today. Think and act fast and don't worry too much about what the consequences might be. Some people may get annoyed but they need to know you're not the sort to be messed around. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Fido's warning
6. Color Me ___ ('90s boy band)
10. Went too fast
14. Mr. Spock's virtue
15. Wise one
16. Taken-back vehicle
17. Flooded
18. High-hatter
19. Pouches
20. Canada Goose garments
22. As well
23. British running great Sebastian
24. Items worn by Queen Victoria at The Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto: 2 wds.
28. With it
31. New Zealand bird
32. Blinds strip
33. Mr. Redding
35. Fashionably 'ready'
38. Clear
41. John Lennon's handwritten lyrics, etc.: 2 wds.
44. ___ socks
45. Hydrocarbon suffixes
46. Hershey's treat
47. Glorify
49. Energy
51. Sketch show, shortly
52. Mount Everest professionals: 2 wds.
57. ___ Mahal
58. Li'l loudness



Down

1. "___ Shot" (1977)
2. "And ___ word from our sponsor..."
3. Seaweed product
4. Hazards
5. "To life!" in "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971)
6. Microsoft mogul ...his initials-shares
7. Some relatives
8. Cake-lover's spotting-cake reaction
9. Claude __, Montreal-born singer/songwriter
10. Grads-to-be, briefly
11. They might be held to negotiate a treaty: 2 wds.
12. Edmonton high-rise office building, ___ Tower
13. Prescription amounts
21. Alpine sight
25. "Instant ___!" by John Lennon
26. Non-royal
27. Eiffel Tower's home
28. Lively circle dance

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MAX: -1°
MIN: -16°MAX: -9°
MIN: -10°MAX: -10°
MIN: -11°ANDREW SCHULTZ
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